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LIFE OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON,
FIRST PRESIDENT
OF
THE UNITED STATES.

COMMISSIONED BY ORDER OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, DURING THE WAR
OF THE REVOLUTION.

BY JAMES TRUMBULL, A. M.

With three Engravings.

—000—

NEW YORK,
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY S. & D. A. FORBES,
No. 455 Broadway.

1829.

US 4570.20

US 4570.20

Harvard College Library



**FROM THE
BRIGHT LEGACY.**

One half the income from this Legacy, which was received in 1880 under the will of

JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT

of Waltham, Massachusetts, is to be expended for books for the College Library. The other half of the income is devoted to scholarships in Harvard University for the benefit of descendants of

HENRY BRIGHT, JR.,

who died at Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1686. In the absence of such descendants, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.



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John White
Schmidt
November 8th 1829



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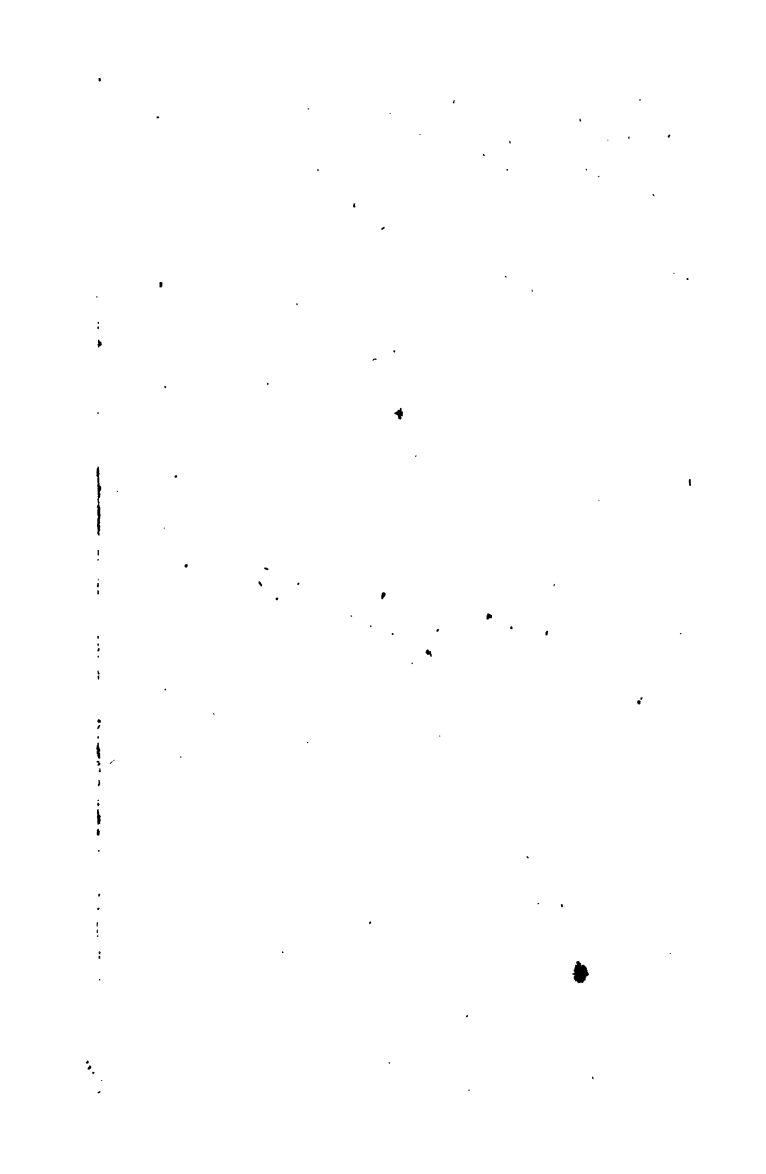


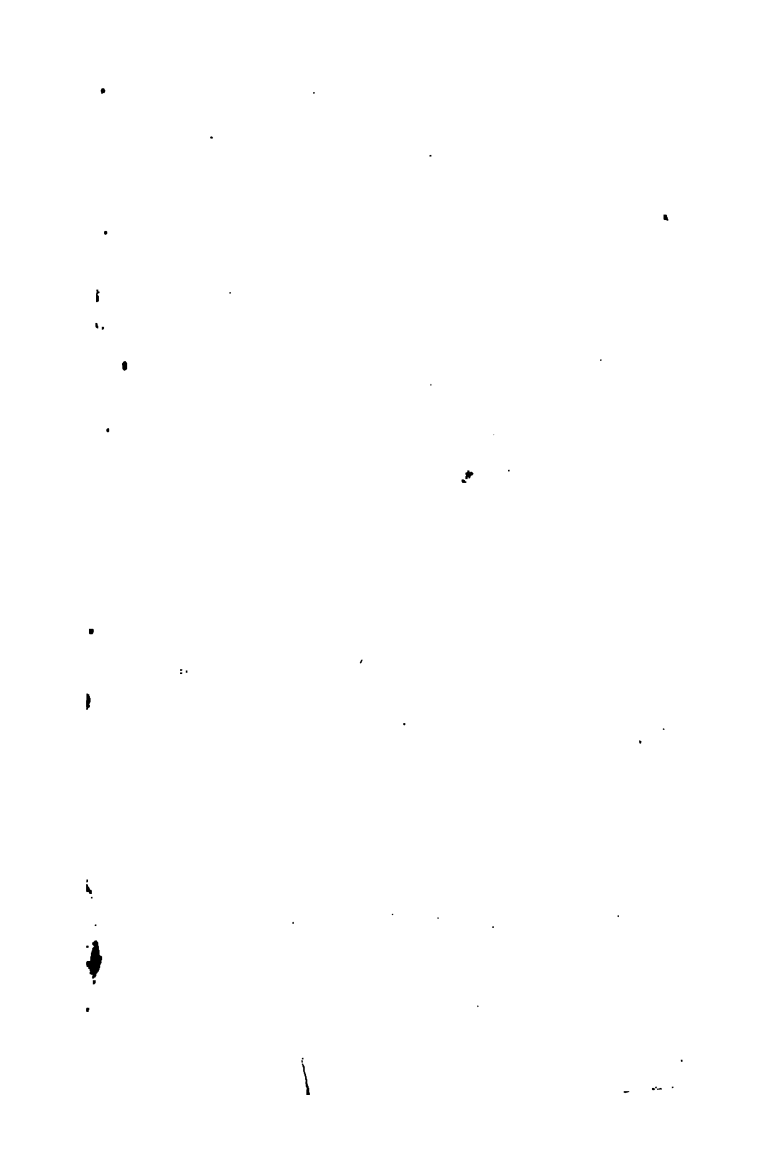
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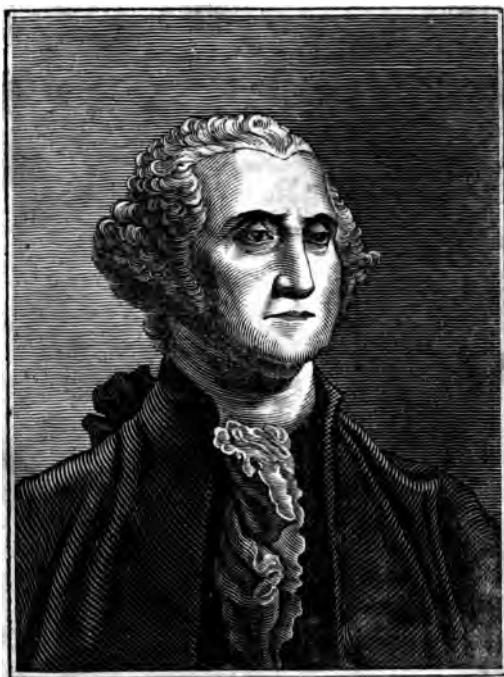
1877

1877









GEORGE WASHINGTON.

LIFE OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON,
FIRST PRESIDENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES,

AND

**COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, DURING THE WAR
OF THE REVOLUTION.**

BY JAMES TRUMBULL, A. M.

With three Engravings.

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NEW-YORK.
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY S & D. A. FORBES,
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1829.

making, in direct violation of the treaties then subsisting between the two crowns. This mission he performed with singular industry, intelligence and address.

The appointment of major Washington was deemed a circumstance somewhat extraordinary at that period ; it was said that a youth unacquainted with the enlarged commerce of the world, unexperienced in political concerns, appeared to be unfit to be employed to conduct a negotiation, wherein subjects of the greatest importance were involved. It was very true that the subjects were important, for they shortly after became the origin of a war between the two nations, which raged for many years, and extended throughout every part of the globe, and which ended in the final expulsion of the French from the continent.

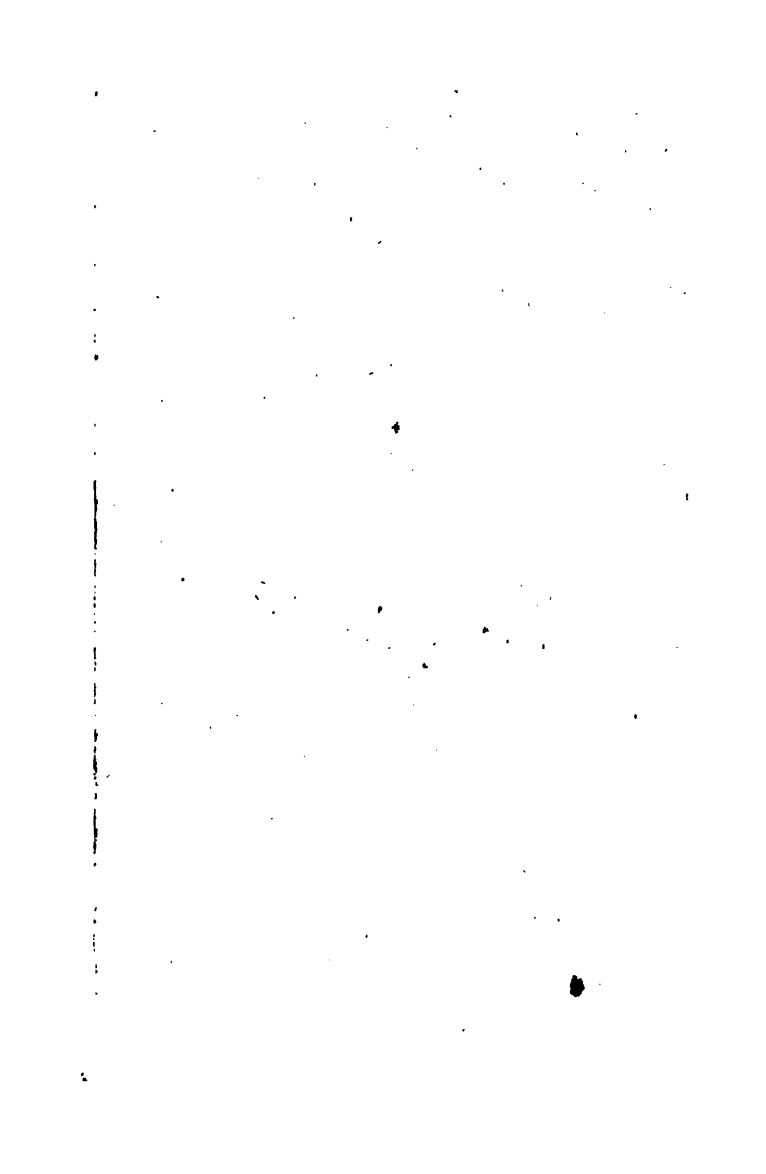
But those who had formed such superficial notions of the major, were, in the end, deceived by the success and abilities manifested through the whole transaction. This having been the first effort of that career which has terminated with so much splendour in history, and honour and happiness to himself and his country. A report of his

proceedings sent to governor Dinwiddie of Virginia, on that occasion, is highly illustrative of that activity and penetration which have signalized his character on a more extensive theatre, at a subsequent period. Our limits will not permit a copy of the report.

On his return from this perilous embassy, with Mons. de St. Pierre's answer, and his good success in the Indian negotiations, major Washington was complimented with the thanks and approbation of his country. His journal does great credit to his industry, attention, and judgment; and it has since proved of infinite service to those who have been doomed to traverse the same inhospitable tracts.

Governor Dinwiddie's letter to the French commandant, and M. de St. Pierre's answer have been published in several periodical works, both in America and in Britain. The governor's letter stated, that he had heard with surprise and concern, that the French were erecting fortresses and making settlements in the lands upon the river Ohio, which are the property of the crown of Great Britain; in consequence of which,





to proceed to open roads so as to preoccupy the advantageous post at the confluence of the Allegheny and Mononghela rivers. He was to have been joined by a detachment of independent regulars from the southern colonies, together with some companies of provincials from North-Carolina and Maryland. But perceiving the necessity of expedition, and without waiting for their arrival, he commenced his march; but, notwithstanding his precipitated advance, the French had already taken possession and erected a fortification, which they named fort *Du Quesne*, in honour to the marquis du Quesne, the French governor of Canada.

Colonel Washington accordingly proceeded on his march from Will's-Creek; bravely encountering all the obstacles and difficulties of an impervious wilderness, crossing mires, savannas and rivers. His men were sometimes forced to ford rivers so deep as to take them up to the arm-pits; when he had proceeded as far as Turkey-foot, he received information that a party of French, commanded by M. de Jumonville, were concealed within a short distance of his camp; whereupon he secured his

wagons, and put himself in the best means of defence he was capable of, until he had learned the strength of the enemy, and the place where they were.

Having received from the Indians the necessary information, on the night of the 27th of May, he set out with his men, under a heavy rain, and a night dark as pitch, they travelled along a path scarcely broad enough for one man; they were sometimes fifteen or twenty minutes out of the path before they could come to it again, and so dark, that they would often strike one against another; all night they continued their route, and in the morning about sunrise, formed themselves for an engagement, marching one after another in the Indian manner; the enemy did not discover them until they were close upon them, when colonel Washington's company fired, and was supported by Mr. Wager's; these two companies received the whole fire of the French, which lasted a quarter of an hour before the enemy was routed out. M. de Jumonville and nine others were killed, one wounded, and twenty-one made prisoners. Among the prisoners was the celebrated woodsman, Mons. de la Force.

The following extract from colonel Washington's Journal of his proceedings given in to Governor Dinwiddie, places these transactions in a point of view, that may be considered as correct. "We were advanced pretty near to them as we thought, when they discovered us; whereupon I ordered my company to fire, mine was supported by Mr. Wager's, and my company and his received the whole fire of the French, during the greatest part of the action, which only lasted a quarter of an hour before the enemy was routed."

"We killed M. de Jumonville, the commander of that party, as also nine others; we wounded one, and made twenty-one prisoners, among whom were M. la Force, M. Droullon, and two cadets. The Indians scalped the dead, and took away most part of their fire arms, after which we marched on with the prisoners and guard, to the Indian camp, where again I held a council with the half-king; and there informed him, that the governor was desirous to see him, and was waiting for him at Winchester; he answered, that he could not go just then, as the people were in too imminent danger

from the French, whom they had fell upon ; that he must send messengers to all the allied nations, in order to invite them to take up the hatchet."

From the French prisoners, colonel Washington had intelligence, that the french forces on the Ohio consisted of upwards of one thousand regulars, and some hundreds of Indians. Upon this intelligence, and considering his little army, which was somewhat reduced, and entirely insufficient to act offensively against the French and Indians, he fell back to a place known by the appellation of the *Great Meadows*, for the sake of forage and supplies. Here he built a temporary stockade, merely to cover his stores ; it was from its fate called *Fort Necessity*. Colonel Washington was too sensible of the advantages of du Quesne, to abandon the idea of taking it. Ever since he left Will's-creek, he had been indefatigable in his exertions to form the regiment, open roads, and gain the Indians over to the side of the English, as also to watch the operations of the French, and to gain a knowledge of the forts, situation, and forces, even as far as the Lakes. He had wrote to the

governors of Pennsylvania and Maryland, requesting their aid in the augmentation of his army. He remained at Fort Necessity for the arrival of some expected succour from New York and Pennsylvania unmolested, until July following, when his small force, even after it was joined by captain M'Kay's regulars, did not amount to four hundred effectives, was attacked by an army of French and Indians, computed to have been sixteen hundred strong, under the command of the sieur de Villiers, the brother of M. de Jumonville. The chief intention of this campaign, the French officer acknowledged, was to revenge the assassination of his brother, and to hinder any establishments on the lands claimed by the king of France.

The Virginians sustained the attack of the enemy's whole force for several hours, and laid near two hundred of them dead in the field, when the French commander, discouraged by such determined resolution, proposed the less dangerous method of dislodging his enemy by a parly, which ended in a capitulation. It was stipulated, that colonel Washington should march away with

all the honors of war, and be allowed to carry off his military stores, effects and baggage. After this disaster the remains of the Virginia regiment returned to Alexandria to be recruited and furnished with necessary supplies; during this period the French redoubled their activity and diligence on the Ohio, and in other places, and Virginia, who determined to send out a larger force in the spring following, erected the forts Cumberland and London, and formed a camp at Will's-creek, in order to annoy the enemy on the Ohio. In these several services (particularly in the construction of forts) colonel Washington was principally employed.

In 1755, the British government sent to this country general Braddock, who was appointed to the command of all the troops and forces which were, or that should be raised in, or sent to North America; he landed at Williamsburgh, Virginia, in February, with two veteran regiments from Ireland, but sent his men up the Potomac to Alexandria, there to encamp until he was joined with the independent and provincial corps of America; with this army he was

to penetrate through the country to fort Du Quesne (now fort Pitt) by the rout of Wills-creek to repel the French from the confines of the British settlements, and as no person was better acquainted with the frontier country than colonel Washington, and no one in the colony enjoyed so well established a military character, he was judged to be highly serviceable to general Braddock, but from a royal arrangement of rank, by which "no officer who did not immediately derive his commission from the king, could command one who did," Colonel Washington cheerfully relinquished his regiment, and went as an extra aid-de-camp into the family of general Braddock. In this capacity, at the battle of Monongahela, on the 9th of July, 1755, he attended that general, whose life was gallantly sacrificed in attempting to extricate his troops from that fatal ambuscade into which his overweening confidence had conducted them. Braddock had several horses shot under him, before he fell himself; and there was not an officer, whose duty obliged him to be on horseback that day, excepting colonel Washington, who was not either killed or wounded. This

circumstance enabled him to display greater abilities in covering the retreat and saving the wreck of the army, than he could otherwise have done. As soon as he had secured their passage over the ford of the Monongahela, and found they were not pursued, he hasted to concert measures for their further security with colonel Dunbar, who had remained with the second division and heavy baggage at some distance in the rear. To effect this, he travelled with two guides, all night, through an almost impervious wilderness, notwithstanding the fatigues he had undergone in the day, and although he had so imperfectly recovered from sickness, that he was obliged in the morning to be supported with cushions on his horse. The public account in Britain and America were not parsimonious of applause for the essential service he had rendered on so trying an occasion.

Not long after this time, the regulation o rank, which had been so injurious to the colonial officers was changed to their satisfaction, in consequence of the discontent of the officers, and the remonstrance of colonel Washington. The supreme power o

Virginia, impressed with a due sense of his merits, gave him, in a new and extensive commission, the command of all the troops raised and to be raised in that colony.

It would not comport with the intended brevity of this sketch, to mention in detail the plans he suggested, or the system he pursued for defending the frontiers, until the 1758, when he commanded the van brigade of general Forbes's army in the capture of Fort du Quesne. A similar reason will preclude the recital of the personal hazards and achievements which happened in the course of his service.

Shortly after colonel Washington's resignation, he married Mrs. Custus,* an amiable young widow, said to have possessed a fortune of twenty thousand pounds sterling (about 88,900 dollars) in her own right, besides her dower in one of the principal estates in Virginia. With this lady colonel Washington settled as a planter and farmer on his estate in Fairfax country in Virginia.

After some years he gave up planting to-

* General and Mrs. Washington were both born in the same year.

bacco, and went altogether into the farming business.—He has raised seven thousand bushels of wheat, and ten thousand bushels of corn in one year.—Although he has confined his own cultivation to this domestic tract of about nine thousand acres, yet he possessed excellent lands, in large quantities, in several other counties.

After he left the army, until the year 1774, he thus cultivated the arts of peace. He was constantly a member of assembly, a magistrate of his county, and a judge of the court. At this period he was appointed by the assembly of Virginia, in conformity with the universal wish of the people, to be one of their four delegates at the first general congress of delegates from all the provinces, which met at Philadelphia on the 26th of October, 1774, and consisted of fifty one members. It was with no small reluctance that he engaged again in the active scenes of life; and we sincerely believe that no motives but such as spring from the most disinterested patriotism could have prevailed upon him to relinquish the most refined domestic pleasure, which it was ever in his power to command, and

the great delight he took in farming and the improvement of his estate.

He was also appointed delegate to the congress which assembled in 1775, in which it was at length determined, after every step towards an accommodation had failed, and every petition from America had been rejected, to repel by force the invasion Great Britain. The eyes of the whole continent were immediately turned upon Mr. Washington. With one common voice he was called forth to the defence of his country; and it is, perhaps, his peculiar glory, that there was not a single inhabitant of these states, except himself, who did not approve the choice, and place the firmest confidence in his integrity and abilities.

He arrived at Cambridge in New-England, in July, 1775, and there took the supreme command of the army of the United Colonies. Previous to this period, hostilities had actually commenced. On the 19th of April, 1775, blood was first shed at the battle of Concord; and on the 16th of June following, the memorable battle of Breed's hill, commonly called Bunker's hill was fought.

General Washington was received at the camp with that heart felt exultation, which superior merit alone can inspire, after having, in his progress through the several states, received every mark of affection and esteem, which they considered were due to the man, whom the whole continent looked up to for safety and freedom.

The following address was presented to him on his accepting the supreme command of the army, by the provincial congress of New-York.

ADDRESS,

Presented to his excellency General Washington, by the provincial Congress of New York.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY;

AT a time when the most loyal of his majesty's subjects, from a regard to the laws and constitution by which he sits on the throne, feel themselves reduced to the unhappy necessity of taking up arms, to defend their dearest rights and privileges—

while we deplore the calamities of this empire, we rejoice in the appointment of a gentleman, from whose abilities and virtue we are taught to expect both security and peace.

Confiding in you, sir, and in the worthy generals immediately under your command, we have the most flattering hopes of success in the glorious struggle for American liberty, and the fullest assurances, that whenever this important contest shall be decided, by that fondest wish of each American soul, an accommodation with our mother country, you will cheerfully resign the important deposit committed into your hands, and reassume the character of our worthiest citizen.

By order,

P. V. B. LIVINGSTON, *President.*

New-York, June 26th, 1775.

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S ANSWER.

Gentlemen,

At the same time that with you I deplore the unhappy necessity of such an appoint-

ment, as that with which I am honored cannot but feel sentiments of the highest gratitude, for this affecting instance of distinction and regard.

May your warmest wishes be realized the success of America, at this important and interesting period ; and be assured every exertion of my worthy colleagues myself, will be equally extended to the establishment of peace and harmony between the mother country, and these colonies ; as to the fatal but necessary conditions of war, when we assumed the sword we did not lay aside the citizen ; and I shall most sincerely rejoice with you in this happy hour, when the establishment of American liberty, on the most firm and solid foundations, shall enable us to return to our private stations, in the bosom of a peaceful and happy country.

G. WASHINGTON

His conduct as a general and commander in chief is well known. He underwent many hardships, dangers, and difficulties and conducted his military operations with much skill and ability.

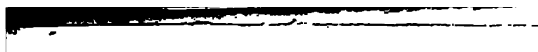
It would not comport with the intended brevity of the present memoirs, for us to particularize all his transactions in the course of the revolutionary war; as the impression which they made, is yet fresh in the mind of every citizen.

But it is hoped, posterity will be taught, in what manner he transformed an undisciplined body of peasantry into a regular army of soldiers. Commentaries on his campaigns would undoubtedly be highly interesting and instructive to future generations. The conduct of his first campaign, in March, 1776, in compelling the British troops to abandon Boston, by a bloodless victory, will merit a minute narration. But a volume will scarcely contain the mortifications he experienced and the hazards to which he was exposed in the years 1776 and 1777, in contending against the prowess of Britain, with an inadequate force. Her armies were far superior to his in number, well organized and disciplined, inured to a camp life, commanded by officers well experienced in military tactics, and aided by powerful fleets, while his was composed of raw and undisciplined peasants, "just dragged from the

tender scenes of domestic life—unaccustomed to the din of arms—totally unacquainted with every kind of military skill”—unused to the subordination so essentially requisite in any army, and often in want of arms, ammunition, and clothes, and even food, often exposed to the inclemency of the weather, in the most rigorous seasons, without tents or even a blanket, and discouraged by the want of regular pay. These circumstances fully account for the unsuccessful issue of his first campaign.

The battle of Long Island was fought in August, 1776; his army were driven from their post by the British; above two thousand Americans fell on the field, and about half that number were taken prisoners. Fort Washington on York Island, surrendered soon after, with two thousand prisoners: desertion and sickness added to his misfortunes. His army, at the time Lord Howe landed on Long Island, amounted to twenty five thousand men, was now reduced to about one eighth part of the number.

The approach of winter happily checked the progress of the enemy. General Washington's perseverance and intrepidity, im-





proved; this circumstance into important advantages. At Trenton, on the morning of the 26th of December, he surprised a body of the enemy's troops, who, finding themselves surrounded, without further resistance, agreed to lay down their arms—Twenty-five officers, and nearly one thousand soldiers were made prisoners; while the American army had only four or five men wounded.

On the third of January following, at Princeton he made another successful attempt, there he took three hundred prisoners. These enterprises cheered the drooping spirits of his men, and again added reputation to the American arms. He afterwards retired to Morristown, and remained during the winter, with an inferior force, but with superior skill, checking the enemy from any further encroachments in that part of the country. We shall not enter into a minute description of the various battles and skirmishes, in which he was personally engaged during the campaign of 1777. At the battle of Brandywine, he made a gallant resistance, but was at last forced to quit his ground with the loss of about twelve hun-

dred men killed, or wounded, or taken prisoners. At Germantown he was repulsed with the loss of six hundred killed or wounded, and about four hundred prisoners. He afterwards retired to winter quarters at Valley Forge. His army was at this time in a most miserable condition, marching without stockings or shoes over the frozen ground, their feet were so gashed, that their steps were marked with blood: Some hundreds of them were without blankets; and in this condition they were in the middle of winter, to sit down in a forest, and build huts for shelter. The destitute situation of the American army at all times was certainly a means of procrastinating the war; oftentimes it was upon the eve of dissolution, even mutinies have been the consequence, while want of success prevented many of the soldiers from continuing longer than the period of their short enlistments, and caused frequent desertion. Indeed nothing but the good destiny and consummate prudence of the commander in chief, prevented the want of success from producing want of confidence on the part of the public; for want of success is apt to lead to the adoption of

pernicious counsels, through the levity of the people, or the ambition of their demagogues. In the three succeeding years, the germ of discipline unfolded; and the resources of America having been called into co-operation with the land and naval armies of France, produced the glorious conclusion of the campaign in 1781. On the nineteenth of October that year, the army under command of general Washington, forced the enemy, then under command of Lord Cornwallis, to make a final surrender; his land forces were made prisoners of war to the Congress; and the naval forces were given up to France. From this time the gloom began to disappear from our political horizon, and the affairs of the union proceeded in a meliorating train until a peace was ably negotiated by our ambassadors in Europe, in 1783, by which thirteen of the American colonies were established as sovereign and independent states.

General Washington having never been in Europe, he could not possibly have seen much military service when the armies of Britain were sent to subdue America; yet still for a variety of reasons, he was by much

the most proper man on this continent, and probably any where else, to be placed at the head of an American army. The very high estimation he stood in for integrity and honour, his engaging in the cause of his country from sentiment and a conviction of her wrongs, moderation in politics, his extensive popularity, and his approved abilities as a commander, were motives which necessarily obliged the choice of America to fall upon him.

That nature had given him extraordinary military talents, will hardly be controverted by his most bitter enemies: and having been early actuated with a warm passion to serve his country in the military line, he has greatly improved them by unwearied industry, and a close application to the best writers upon tactics, and by a more than common method and exactness; and, in reality when it comes to be considered, that at first he only headed a body of men entirely unacquainted with military discipline or operations, some what ungovernable in temper and who at best could only be styled an alert and good militia, acting under very short enlistments, unclothed, unaccoutred, an

all times very ill supplied with amunition and artillery; and that with such an army he withstood the ravages and progress of nearly forty thousand veteran troops, plentifully provided with every necessary article, commanded by the bravest officers in Europe; and supported by a very powerful navy, which effectually prevented all movements by water; when we say all this comes to be impartially considered, we think we may venture to pronounce, that General Washington will be regarded by mankind as one of the greatest military ornaments of the present age, and his name will command the veneration of the latest posterity.

No person, but those who had an opportunity of viewing the continental army, can form any adequate idea of its imperfect state when General Washington first assumed the command, nor was it without the most unwearied application and perseverance, which few men but him, could have undergone, that he was able to establish that discipline which ultimately aided his success. From the period he first assumed the command, until the final dissolution of the army, his care and anxiety, for them con-

tinued. The army he considered his family : and after the embarrassments of the day and the toil and fatigues of a battle, we find him stealing a portion of time allotted for rest, devising means the most salutary, for their amelioration, at all times characterized with that economy and frugality which the national resources required.

The following extracts from his official letters to the Congress on this subject, are worthy of perusal : they do ample justice to his feelings, and must make a lasting impression on the heart of his fellow soldiers.

Extract of a letter from General Washington, to the honorable Congress, dated Cambridge, September 21, 1775.

“ It gives me great pain to be obliged to solicit the attention of the honorable Congress to the state of this army, in terms which imply the slightest apprehension of being neglected. But my situation is inexpressibly distressing, to see the winter fast approaching upon a naked army : the time of their service within a few weeks of expiring ; and no provision yet made for such important events. Added to these, the

military chest is totally exhausted ; the pay-master has not a single dollar in hand : the commissary-general assures me he has strained his credit, for the subsistence of the army to the utmost.—The quarter-master-general is precisely in the same situation ; and the greatest part of the troops are in a state not far from mutiny, upon the deduction from their stated allowance. I know not to whom I am to impute this failure ; but I am of opinion, if the evil is not remedied, and more punctuality observed in future, the army must absolutely break up. I hoped I had so fully expressed myself on this subject, (both by letter, and to those members of the congress who honored the camp with a visit) that no disappointment could possibly happen. I therefore hourly expected advice from the pay-master that he had received a fresh supply, in addition to the hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars delivered him in August : and thought myself warranted to assure the public creditors that in a few days they should be satisfied. But the delay has brought matters to such a crisis, as admits of no further uncertain expectation. I have therefore sent off

this express, with orders to make all possible despatch. It is my most earnest request that he may be returned with all possible expedition, unless the honorable Congress have already forwarded what is so indispensably necessary."

I have the honor to be, &c.

G. W.

LETTER FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

To the President of Congress.

New-York, July 25, 1776.

SIR,

"DISAGREEABLE as it is to me, and unpleasant as it may be to Congress, to multiply officers, I find myself under the unavoidable necessity of asking an increase of my aids-de-camp. The augmentation of my command; the increase of my correspondence; the orders to give; the instructions to draw; cut out more business than I am able to execute in time with propriety. The business of so many different departments

ments centering with me, and by me to be handed to Congress for their information; added to the intercourse I am obliged to keep up with the adjacent states; and incidental occurrences; all which require confidential and not hack writers to execute; renders it impossible, in the present state of things, for my family to discharge the several duties expected of me, with that precision and despatch that I could wish. What will it be then, when we come into a more active scene, and I am called from twenty different places perhaps at the same instant?"

"Congress will do me the justice to believe (I hope) that it is not my inclination or wish to run the continent to any unnecessary expense; and those who better know me, will not suspect that show and parade can have any influence on my mind in this instance. A conviction of the necessity of it for the regular discharge of the trust reposed in me, is the governing motive for the application; and, as such, is submitted to Congress."

by Sir,

Your most obedient, &c.

G. W."

B *

*Extract of a letter from General Washington
to the President of Congress.*

New-York, September 2, 1776.

"SIR,

"As my intelligence of late has been rather unfavorable, and would be received with anxiety and concern; peculiarly happy should I esteem myself, were it in my power at this time, to transmit such information to Congress as would be more pleasing and agreeable to their wishes; but unfortunately for them, it is not."

"Our situation is truly distressing. The check our detachment sustained on the twenty-seventh ultimo, has dispirited too great a portion of our troops, and filled their minds with apprehension and despair. The militia, instead of calling forth their utmost efforts to brave and manly opposition in order to repair our losses, are dismayed, untractable, and impatient to return. Great numbers of them have gone off; in some instances, almost by whole regiments, by half ones, and by companies at a time. This circumstance, of itself, independent of others, when fronted by a well-appointed enemy superior in number to our whole col-

lected force, would be sufficiently disagreeable: but, when their example has infected another part of the army; when their want of discipline, and refusal of almost every kind of restraint and government, have produced a like conduct but too common to the whole, and an entire disregard of that order and subordination necessary to the well doing of an army, and which has been inculcated before, as well as the nature of our military establishment would admit of; our condition is still more alarming; and with the deepest concern I am obliged to confess my want of confidence in the generality of the troops."

"All these circumstances fully confirm the opinion I ever entertained, and which I more than once in my letters took the liberty of mentioning to Congress, that no dependance could be put in a militia, or other troops than those enlisted and embodied for a longer period than our regulations heretofore prescribed. I am persuaded, and as fully convinced as I am of any one fact that has happened, that our liberties must of necessity be greatly hazarded, if not entirely lost, if their defence is left to

any but a permanent standing army; I mean one to exist during the war. Nor would the expense, incident to the support of such a body of troops as would be competent to almost every exigency, far exceed that which is daily incurred by calling in succour, and new enlistments, which, when effected, are not attended with any good consequences. Men who have been free, and subject to no control, cannot be reduced to order in an instant; and the privileges and exemptions they claim and will have, influence the conduct of others; and the aid derived from them is nearly counterbalanced by the disorder, irregularity and confusion they occasion.

“I cannot find that the bounty of ten dollars is likely to produce the desired effect. When men can get double that sum to engage for a month or two in the militia, and that militia frequently called out, it is hardly to be expected. The addition of land might have a considerable influence on a permanent enlistment.”

LETTER FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

To the President of Congress.

*Col. Morris's on the Heights of Harlaem,
September 24th, 1776.*

SIR,

"FROM the hours allotted to sleep, I will borrow a few moments to convey my thoughts on sundry important matters to Congress. I shall offer them with the sincerity which ought to characterize a man of candour, and with the freedom which may be used in giving useful information, without incurring the imputation of presumption."

"We are now, as it were, upon the eve of another dissolution of our army. The remembrance of the difficulties which happened upon the occasion last year, the consequences which might have followed the change if proper advantages had been taken by the enemy, added to a knowledge of the present temper and situation of the troops, reflect but a gloomy prospect upon the appearances of things now, and satisfy me beyond the possibility of doubt, that unless

some speedy and effectual measures are adopted by Congress, our cause will be lost.

“ It is in vain to expect that any or more than a trifling part of this army will engage in the service on the encouragement offered by Congress, when men find that their townsmen and companions are receiving twenty, thirty, and more dollars, for a few months’ service (which is truly the case) it cannot be expected, without using compulsion; and to force them into the service would answer no valuable purpose.—When men are irritated, and the passions inflamed, they fly hastily and cheerfully to arms; but after the first emotions are over * * *, a soldier, reasoned with upon the goodness of the cause he is engaged in, and the inestimable rights he is contending for, hears you with patience, and acknowledges the truth of your observations, but adds, that it is of no more importance to him than others. The officer makes you the same reply, with this further remark, that his pay will not support him, and he cannot ruin himself and family to serve his country, when every member of the community is equally interested and benefited by his labours. * * *

C *

"It becomes evidently clear then, that as this contest is not likely to be the work of a day—as the war must be carried on systematically—and to do it you must have good officers—there are, in my judgment, no other possible means to obtain them but by establishing your army upon a permanent footing, and giving your officers good pay. This will induce gentlemen and men of character to engage: and, till the bulk of your officers are composed of such persons as are actuated by principles of honor and a spirit of enterprise, you have little to expect from them. They ought to have such allowances as will enable them to live like and support the characters of gentlemen. * * * Besides, something is due to the man who puts his life in [your] hands, hazards his health, and forsakes the sweets of domestic enjoyment. Why a captain in the continental service should receive no more than five shillings currency per day for performing the same duties that an officer of that rank in the British service receives ten shillings sterling for, I never could conceive, especially when the latter is provided with every necessary he requires upon the best

terms, and the former can scarce procure them at any rate. There is nothing which gives a man consequence and renders him fit for command, like a support that renders him independent of every body but the state he serves.

“With respect to the men, nothing but a good bounty can obtain them upon a permanent establishment; and for no shorter time than the continuance of the war, ought they to be engaged; as facts incontestibly prove that the difficulty and cost of enlistments increase with time.—When the army was first raised at Cambridge, I am persuaded that the men might have been got, without a bounty, for the war. After this they began to see that the contest was not likely to end so speedily as was imagined, and to feel their consequence by remarking, that, to get in the militia in the course of the last year, many towns were induced to give them a bounty.

“Foreseeing the evils resulting from this, and the destructive consequences which unavoidably would follow short enlistments, I took the liberty in a long letter (dated not now recollected, as my letter book is

not here) to recommend the enlistments for and during the war, assigning such reasons for it as experience has since convinced me were well founded. At that time, twenty dollars would, I am persuaded, have engaged the men for this term. But it will not do to look back; and if the present opportunity is slipped, I am persuaded that twelve months more will increase our difficulties four fold. I shall therefore take the freedom of giving it as my opinion, that a good bounty be immediately offered, aided by the proffer of at least a hundred or a hundred and fifty acres of land, and a suit of clothes and blanket to each non-commissioned officer and soldier: as I have good authority for saying, that, however high the men's pay may appear, it is barely sufficient, in the present scarcity and dearth of all kinds of goods, to keep them in clothes, much less afford support to their families.

“ If this encouragement then is given to the men, and such pay allowed the officers as will induce gentlemen of character and liberal sentiments to engage, and proper care and precaution used in the nomination (having more regard to the characters of

persons than the number of men they can enlist) we should in a little time have an army able to cope with any that can be opposed to it, as there are excellent materials to form one out of. But while the only merit an officer possesses is his ability to raise men, while those men consider and treat him as an equal, and (in the character of an officer) regard him no more than a broomstick, being mixed together in one common herd, no order nor discipline can prevail; nor will the office ever meet with that respect which is essentially necessary to due subordination.

“To place any dependance upon militia, is assuredly resting upon a broken staff,—men just dragged from the tender scenes of domestic life,—unaccustomed to the din of arms,—totally unacquainted with every kind of military skill; which being followed by want of confidence in themselves, when opposed to troops regularly trained, disciplined, and appointed, superior in arms, makes them timid and ready to fly from their own shadows. Besides, the sudden change in their manner of living (particularly in lodging) brings on sickness in many,

ience in all, and such an unconquerable desire of returning to their respective homes, that it not only produces shameful and scandalous desertions among them, but infuses the like spirit into others. Men accustomed to unbounded liberty and no control, cannot brook the restraint which is indispensably necessary for good order and government of an army without which, licentiousness and every kind of disorder triumphantly reign. Bringing men to a proper degree of subordination is not the work of a day, a month, or even a year; and unhappily for us and the cause we are engaged in, the little discipline I have been laboring to establish in my army under my immediate command, is almost entirely done away, by such a mixture of troops as have been called together in these few months.

Relaxed and unfit as our rules and regulations of war are for the government of a militia, the militia (those properly so called) of these we have two sorts, the six-months-men, and those sent in as a temporary reinforcement do not think themselves subject to discipline and therefore take liberties which

the soldier is punished for. This creates jealousy: jealousy begets dissatisfaction and these by degrees ripen into mutiny keeping the whole army in a confused and disordered state; rendering the time those who wish to see regularity and good order prevail, more unhappy than war can describe. Besides this, such repeated changes take place, that all arrangements set at naught, and the constant fluctuation of things deranges every plan as fast as adopted.

“These, sir, Congress may be assured are but a small part of the inconveniences which might be enumerated, and attributed to militia; but there is one that merits particular attention, and that is the expense. Certain I am, that it would be cheaper to keep fifty or a hundred thousand in constant pay, than to depend upon half the number and supply the other half occasionally militia. The time the latter are in pay before and after they are in camp, assembling and marching; the waste of ammunition the consumption of stores, which in every resolution or requisition of Congress they must be furnished with, or sent

added to other incidental expenses consequent upon their coming and conduct in camp, surpasses all idea, and destroys every kind of regularity and economy which you could establish among fixed and settled troops, and will, in my opinion, prove (if the scheme is adhered to) the ruin of our cause.

“ The jealousies of a standing army, and the evils to be apprehended from one, are remote, and, in my judgment, situated and circumstanced as we are, not at all to be dreaded: but the consequence of wanting one, according to my ideas formed from the present view of things, is certain and inevitable ruin. For if I was called upon oath, whether the militia have been most serviceable or hurtful upon the whole, I should subscribe to the latter. I do not mean by this, however, to arraign the conduct of Congress: in so doing, I should equally condemn my own measures, if not my judgment: but experience, which is the best criterion to work by, so fully, clearly and decisively reprobates the practice of trusting to militia, that no man who regards order, regularity and economy, or who has

any regard to his own honor, character, peace of mind, will risk them upon issue. * * *

“ An army formed of good officers like clock-work, out there is no upon earth less enviable nor more than that person who is at the head of the troops who are regardless of order and discipline, who are unprovided with every necessary. In a word, the difficulties which have for ever succeeded since I have been in the service, have been constantly upon the street of wounds which my feelings (as all have received by a thousand things) have happened contrary to my expectations and wishes, * * *—add to a consciousness of my inability to govern an army composed of such discordant parts, and under a variety of intricate and perplexing circumstances,—induce not only a belief, but a thorough conviction in my mind, that it will be impossible (unless there be a change in our military system) for me to conduct in such a manner as to give satisfaction to the public, which is all the recompense I aim at, or ever wished

"Before I conclude, I must apologize for the liberties taken in this letter, and for the blots and scratchings therein, not having time to give it more correctly. With truth I can add, that, with every sentiment of respect and esteem, I am yours and the Congress's

Most obedient, &c.
G. W.

Correspondence between GENERAL WASHINGTON and GENERAL GAGE, respecting the bad treatment of prisoners.

Letter from his Excellency General Washington, to General Gage.

*Head-Quarters, Cambridge, August 11th,
1775.*

SIR,

"I understand that the officers, engaged in the cause of liberty and their country, who by the fortune of war, have fallen into your hands, have been thrown indiscriminately into a common gaol, appropriated for

felous—that no consideration has been made for those of the most respectable rank, when languishing with wounds and sickness—that some of them have been amputated in this unworthy situation.

“Let your opinion, sir, of the principle which actuates them, be what it may, they suppose they act from the noblest of all principles, a love of freedom and their country. But political opinions, I conceive, are foreign to this point. The obligations arising from the right of humanity and claims of rank, are universally binding and extensive, except in case of retaliation. These, I should have hoped, would have dictated a more tender treatment of those individuals, whom chance of war had put in your power. Nor can I forbear suggesting its fatal tendency to widen that unhappy breach, which you, and those ministers under whom you act, have repeatedly declared you wish to see for ever closed.

“My duty now makes it necessary to apprise you, that for the future, I shall regulate my conduct towards those gentlemen of your army, who are, or may be in our possession, exactly by the rule you may ob-

serve towards those of ours who may be in your custody.

“If severity and hardship mark the line of your conduct (painful as it may be to me) your prisoners will feel its effects; but if kindness and humanity are shown to ours, I shall, with pleasure, consider those in our hands, only as unfortunate, and they shall receive from me that treatment to which the unfortunate are entitled.

“I beg to be favored with an answer as soon as possible, and am, sir,

Your humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.”

His Excellency General Gage.

ANSWER.

Boston, August 13th, 1775,

“SIR,

“To the glory of civilized nations, humanity and war have been compatible; and compassion to the subdued is become almost a general system.

“Britons, ever pre-eminent in mercy,
C.

have outgone common examples, and overlooked the criminal in the captive. Upon these principles your prisoners, whose lives, by the laws of the land, are destined to the cord, have hitherto been treated with kindness and more comfortably lodged, than the king's troops, in the hospitals; indiscriminately, it is true, for I acknowledge no rank that is not derived from the king.

"My intelligence from your army would justify recrimination. I understand there are some of the king's faithful subjects, taken some time since by the rebels, laboring like Negro slaves, to gain their daily subsistence, or reduced to the wretched alternative, to perish by famine, or take arms against their king and country. Those, who have made the treatment of the prisoners in my hands, or of your other friends in Boston, pretence for such measures, found barbarism upon falsehood.

"I would willingly hope, sir, that the sentiments of liberality which I have always believed you to possess, will be exerted to correct their misdoings. Be temperate in political disquisition; give free operation to truth, and punish those who deceive

misrepresent; and not only the effects, but the causes of this unhappy conflict will soon be removed.

“Should those, under whose usurped authority you act, control such a disposition, and dare to call severity retaliation, to God, who knows all hearts, be the appeal for the dreadful consequences. I trust, that British soldiers, asserting the rights of the state, the law of the land, the being of the constitution, will meet all events with becoming fortitude. They will court victory with the spirit their cause inspires, and from the same motives, will find the patience of martyrs under misfortune.

“Till I read your insinuations in regard to ministers, I conceived that I had acted under the king; whose wishes, it is true, as well as those of his ministers, and of every honest man, have been to see this unhappy breach closed; but unfortunately for both countries, those who have long since projected the present crisis, and influence the councils of America, have views very distant from accommodation. I am, sir,

Your obedient, humble servant,

THOMAS GAGE.

George Washington, Esq.

REPLY.

*Head-Quarters, Cambridge,
August 19th, 1775.*

"SIR.

"I addressed you on the 11th instant, in terms which gave the fairest scope for the exercise of that humanity and politeness, which were supposed to form a part of your character. I remonstrated with you on the unworthy treatment shown to the officers and citizens of America, whom the fortune of war, chance, or a mistaken confidence had thrown into your hands.

"Whether British or American mercy, fortitude and patience, are most pre-eminent—whether our virtuous citizens, whom the hand of tyranny has forced into arms; to defend their wives, their children and their property, or the mercenary instruments of lawless denomination, avarice and revenge, best deserve the appellation of rebels, and the punishment of that cord, which your affected clemency has forborn to inflict—whether the authority under which I act is usurped, were altogether foreign to the subject. I purposely avoided

all political disquisition; nor shall I now avail myself of those advantages, which the sacred cause of my country, of liberty and human nature, give me over you; much less shall I stoop to retort any invective. But the intelligence, you say you have received from our army, requires a reply. I have taken time, sir, to make a strict inquiry, and find that it has not the least foundation of truth. Not only your officers and soldiers have been treated with a tenderness due to fellow-citizens and brethren, but even these execrable parricides, whose councils and aid deluged their country in blood, have been protected from the fury of a justly enraged people. Far from compelling or permitting their assistance, I am embarrassed with the numbers who crowd to our camp, animated with the purest principles of virtue and love of their country. You advise me to give free operation to truth; to punish misrepresentation and falsehood. If experience stamps value upon counsel, yours must have a weight which few can claim. You best can tell how far the convulsion, which has brought such ruin on both countries, and shaken the migh-

ty empire of Britain to its foundation, may be traced to these malignant causes.

“ You affect, sir, to despise all rank, not derived from the same source with your own. I cannot conceive one more honorable, than that which flows from the uncorrupted choice of a brave and free people, the purest source and original fountain of all power. Far from making it a plea for cruelty, a mind of true magnanimity and enlarged ideas, would comprehend and respect it.

“ What may have been the misterial views which have precipitated the present crisis, Lexington, Concord, and Charlestown, can best declare. May that God, to whom you then appealed, judge between America and you. Under his providence, those who influence the councils of America, and all the other inhabitants of the united colonies, at the hazard of their lives, are determined to hand down to posterity, those just and invaluable privileges which they received from their ancestors.

“ I shall now, sir, close my correspondence with you, perhaps for ever. If your officers, our prisoners, receive a treatment

from me, different from what I wished to shew them, they and you will remember the occasion of it.

"I am, sir,

"Your very homble servant,
G. WASHINGTON."

"General Gage.

The preceding letters will ever convey to the world a sufficient testimony of the attention and care, which, at all times, General Washington extended to the soldiers under his command.

To those ungrateful few, who, stimulated by malice, have therefore endeavored to sully his honor and military reputation, and to impress upon the public mind, the ungenerous idea, that he was instrumental to the shedding of innocent blood, and inflicting wanton cruelty upon the prisoners of the enemy, we recommend a perusal of his letters to congress upon that subject: there they will find him combatting the idea with the language of reason, and censuring the inhuman practice. The historians of the American war have uniformly represented the case of Major Andre as an example of

murder on the part of America. " On this occasion, General Washington sacrificed his own feelings, to the " necessities of inexorable justice." The sentence was pronounced with much hesitation, and, at its execution, he was seen to shed tears. Nor is it necessary for us to remind them of his fortitude to withstand the threats, or virtue to scorn the bribes of the emissaries of the British cabinet, for one uniform principle of prudence and wisdom seems to have regulated every transaction of his life.

When General Washington received the joyful intelligence of peace, he expressed himself to the army which had accompanied him through the dangers, toils, and difficulties of this glorious struggle, in the following address:

ORDERS,

*Issued by General Washington, to the army.
Head-Quarters, April 18, 1783.*

THE commander in chief orders the cessation of hostilities between the United States of America and the King of Great

dition, to be publicly proclaimed to-morrow, at twelve o'clock, at the new building; and that the proclamation, which will be communicated herewith, be read to-morrow evening at the head of every regiment and corps of the army; after which the generals, with the several brigades, will render thanks to the Almighty God for all his mercies, particularly for his over-ruling the wrath of man to his own glory, and causing the rage of war to cease among the nations.

“ Although the proclamation, before alluded to, extends only to the prohibition of hostilities, and not to the annunciation of a general peace, yet it must afford the most rational and sincere satisfaction to every benevolent mind, as it puts a period to a long and doubtful contest, stops the effusion of human blood, opens the prospect to a more splendid scene, and, like another morning star, promises the approach of a brighter day than hath hitherto illuminated the western hemisphere. On such a happy day, which is the harbinger of peace, a day which completes the eighth year of the war, it would be ingratitude not to rejoice;

it would be insensibility not to participate in the general felicity.

“The commander in chief, far from endeavoring to stifle the feeling of joy in his own bosom, offers his most cordial congratulations on the occasion to all the officers of every denomination; to all the troops of the United States in general; and, in particular, to those gallant and persevering men who had resolved to defend the rights of their invaded country, so long as the war should continue. For these are the men who ought to be considered as the pride and boast of the American army; and who, crowned with well-earned laurels, may soon withdraw from the field of glory to the more tranquil walks of civil life. While the commander in chief recollects the almost infinite variety on scenes through which we have passed, with a mixture of pleasure, astonishment, and gratitude; while he contemplates the prospects before us with rapture, he cannot help wishing that all the brave men, of whatever condition they may be, who have shared the toils and dangers of effecting this glorious revolution; of rescuing millions from the hand of op-

pression; and of laying the hand of a great empire, might be impressed with a proper idea of the dignified part they have been called to act, under the smiles of Providence, on the stage of human affairs; for happy, thrice happy! shall they be pronounced hereafter, who have contributed any thing, who have performed the meanest office in erecting this stupendous **FABRIC OF FREEDOM AND EMPIRE** on the broad basis of independency; who have assisted in protecting the rights of human nature, and establish an asylum for the poor and oppressed of all nations and religions. The glorious task for which we at first flew to arms being accomplished—the liberties of our country being fully acknowledged and firmly secured by the smiles of Heaven on the purity of our cause, and the honest exertions of a feeble people determined to be free, against a powerful nation disposed to oppress them; and the character of those who have persevered through every extremity of hardship, suffering, and danger, being immortalized by the illustrious appellation of the *patriot army*, nothing now remains but for the actors of the

mighty scene to preserve a perfect unvarying consistency of character through the very last act, to close the drama with applause; and to retire from the military theatre with the same approbation of angels and men which have crowned all their former virtuous actions. For this purpose, no disorder or licentiousness must be tolerated. Every considerate and well disposed soldier must remember it will be absolutely necessary to wait with patience until peace shall be declared, or congress shall be enabled to take proper measures for the security of the public stores, &c. As soon as these arrangements shall be made, the general is confident, there will be no delay in discharging, with every mark of distinction and honor, all the men enlisted for the war, who will then have faithfully performed their engagements with the public. The general has already interested himself in their behalf, and he thinks he need not repeat the assurance of his disposition to be useful to them on the present and every other proper occasion. In the mean time, he is determined that no military neglects or excesses shall go un-

ed while he retains the command of
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he adjutant-general will have such
g parties detached to assist in making
eparations for a general rejoicings, as
ief engineer with the army shall call
nd the quarter-master-general will,
t delay, procure such a number of
rges to be printed as will be sufficient
the men enlisted for the war—he
lease to apply to head quarters for
—An extra ration of liquor to be is-
o every man to morrow, to drink,
etual peace and happiness to the
States of America.”

the 26th of August, 1783, general
ngton, at the request of congress pro-
to Princeton, where the Congress
en sitting, and being introduced by
embers, the president addressed him
ows, viz.

ongress feel particular pleasure in
your excellency, and in congratulat-
u on the success of a war, in which
ve acted so conspicuous a part.

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"It has been the singular happiness of the United States, that during a war so long, so dangerous and so important, Providence has been graciously pleased to preserve the life of a general, who has merited and possessed the uninterrupted confidence and affection of his fellow-citizens. In other nations, many have performed services for which they have deserved and received the thanks of the public ; but to you, sir, peculiar praise is due : your services have been essential in acquiring and establishing the freedom and independence of your country ; they deserve the grateful acknowledgments of a free and independent nation : those acknowledgments Congress have the satisfaction of expressing to your excellency,

"Hostilities have now ceased, but your country still needs your services ; she wishes to avail herself of your talents in forming the arrangements which will be necessary for her in the time of peace ; for this reason, your attendance at congress has been requested. A committee is appointed to confer with your excellency, and to receive your assistance in preparing and adjusting plans relative to those important objects."

*To which his Excellency made the following
REPLY.*

Mr. President,

“ I am too sensible of the honorable reception I have now experienced, not to be penetrated with the deepest feelings of gratitude.

“ Notwithstanding congress appear to estimate the value of my life beyond any services I have been able to render the United States, yet I must be permitted to consider the wisdom and unanimity of our national councils, the firmness of our citizens, and the patience and bravery of our troops, which have produced so happy a termination of the war, as the most conspicuous effects of the Divine interposition, and the surest presages of our future happiness.

“ Highly gratified by the favorable sentiments which congress are pleased to express of my conduct, and amply rewarded by the confidence and affection of my fellow-citizens, I cannot hesitate to contribute my best endeavors towards the establishment of the national security in whatever manner the sovereign power may think

proper to direct, until the ratification of the definitive treaty of peace, or the final evacuation of our country by the British forces ; after either of which events, I shall ask permission to retire to the peaceful shade of private life.

“ Perhaps, sir, no occasion may offer more suitable than the present, to express my humble thanks to God, and my grateful acknowledgments to my country, for the great and uniform support I have received in every vicissitude of fortune, and for the many distinguished honors which congress have been pleased to confer upon me in the course of the war.”

After the final conclusion of the peace in 1783, a proclamation was issued by congress, October the 18th, directing the discharge of the army ; whereupon General Washington, before he resigned his important charge, delivered the following elegant and pathetic address to the officers and soldiers under his command, viz.

**GENERAL WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ORDERS
TO THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES.**

Rocky-Hill, near Princeton,

NOVEMBER 2, 1783.

THE United States in Congress assembled after giving the most honorable testimony to the federal armies, and presenting them with the thanks of their country, for their long, eminent and faithful services—having thought proper, by their proclamation, bearing date the 18th of October last, to discharge such part of the troops as were engaged for the war, and to permit the officers on furlough to retire from service, from and after to-morrow, which having been communicated in the public papers for the information and government of all concerned; it only remains for the commander in chief to address himself once more, and that for the last time, to the armies of the United States (however widely dispersed the individuals who composed them may be) and bid them an affectionate—a long farewell.

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But before the commander in chief takes his final leave of those he holds most dear, he wishes to indulge himself a few moments in calling to mind a slight review of the past—he will then take the liberty of exploring, with his military friends, their future prospects; of advising the general line of conduct which, in his opinion, ought to be pursued; and he will conclude the address, by expressing the obligations he feels himself under for the spirited and able assistance he has experienced from them, in the performance of an arduous office.

A contemplation of the complete attainment, at a period earlier than could have been expected, of the object for which we contended, against so formidable a power, cannot but inspire us with astonishment and gratitude. The disadvantageous circumstances on our part, under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. The singular interpositions of Providence, in our feeble condition, were such as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving; while the unparalleled perseverance of the armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and



discouragement, for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.

It is not the meaning, nor within the compass of this address, to detail the hardships peculiarly incident to our service, or to describe the distresses, which, in several instances, have resulted from the extremes of hunger and nakedness, combined with the rigors of an inclement season : nor is it necessary to dwell on the dark side of our past affairs. Every American officer and soldier must now console himself for any unpleasant circumstances which may have occurred by the recollection of the uncommon scenes in which he has been called to act no inglorious part, and the astonishing events of which he has been a witness : events which have seldom, if ever before, taken place on the stage of human action, nor can they probably ever happen again. For, who has before seen a disciplined army formed at once from such raw materials ; Who that was not a witness, could imagine, that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon, and that men who came from the different parts of the continent, strongly disposed, by the habits of

education, to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of brothers? or who that was not on the spot, can trace the steps, by which such a wonderful revolution has been effected, and such a glorious period put to all our warlike toils?

It is universally acknowledged that the enlarged prospects of happiness, opened by the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, almost exceed the power of description: and shall not the brave men who have contributed so essentially to these inestimable acquisitions, retiring victorious from the field of war to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings which have been obtained? In such a republic who will exclude them from the rights of citizens, and the fruits of their labors? In such a country, so happily circumstanced for the pursuits of commerce and the cultivation of the soil will unfold to industry the certain road to competence. To those hardy soldiers, who are actuated by the spirit of adventure, the fisheries will afford ample and profitable employment; and the extensive and fertile regions of the west

will yield a most happy asylum to those, who, fond of domestic enjoyment, are seeking for personal independence. Nor is it possible to conceive that any of the United States will prefer a national bankruptcy, and a dissolution of the union, to a compliance with the requisition of Congress and the payment of its just debts—so that the officers and the soldiers may expect considerable assistance, in recommencing their civil occupations, from the sums due to them from the public, which must and will most inevitably be paid.

In order to effect this desirable purpose, and to remove the prejudices which may have taken possession of the minds of any of the good people of the states, it is earnestly recommended to all the troops, that, with strong attachment to the union, they should carry with them into civil society the most conciliation dispositions; and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and useful citizens, than they have been persevering and victorious as soldiers. What though there should be some envious individuals, who are unwilling to pay the debt the public has contracted, or to yield the

tribute due to merit, yet let such unworthy treatment produce no invective, or any instance of intemperate conduct—let it be remembered, that the unbiassed voice of the free citizens of the United States has promised the just reward, and given the merited applause; let it be known and be remembered, that the reputation of the federal armies is established beyond the reach of malevolence, and let a consciousness of the achievements and fame still incite the men who composed them, to honorable action under the persuasion, that the virtues of economy, prudence, and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the most splendid qualities of valour, perseverance and enterprise, were in the field. Every one may rest assured, that much of the future happiness of the officers and men, will depend upon the wise and manly conduct which shall be adopted by them, when they are mingled with the great body of the community. And, although the general has so frequently given it as his opinion, in the most public and explicit manner, that unless the principles of the federal government were properly supported, and the powers

the union increased, the honor, dignity, and justice of the nation would be lost for ever; yet he cannot help repeating on this occasion so interesting a sentiment, and leaving it as his last injunction to every officer and soldier, who may view the subject in the same serious point of light, to add his best endeavors, to those of his worthy fellow citizens, towards effecting these great and valuable purposes, on which our very existence, as a nation so materially depends.

The commander in chief conceives little is now wanting to enable the soldier to change his military character into that of the citizen, but that steady and decent tenor of behavior which has generally distinguished, not only the army under his immediate command, but the different detachments and separate armies, through the course of the war. From their good sense and prudence he anticipates the happiest consequences—and while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligations he feels himself under, for the assistance he has received from every class.

and in every instance. He presents his thanks in the most serious and affectionate manner to the general officers, as well for their counsel on many interesting occasions, as for their ardour in promoting the success of the plans he had adopted; to the commandants of regiments and corps, and to the other officers, for their great zeal and attention in carrying his orders promptly into execution; to the staff, for their alacrity and exactness in performing the duties of their several departments; and to the non commissioned officers and private soldiers, for their extraordinary patience in suffering as well as their invincible fortitude in action; to the various branches of the army, the general takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship. He wishes more than bare professions were in his power. that he was really able to be useful to them all in future life. He flatters himself, however, they will do him the justice to believe, that whatever could with propriety be attempted by him, has been done. And being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave, in a short

time, of the military character—and to bid a final adieu to the armies he has so long had the honor to command—he can only again offer, in their behalf, his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favors, both here and hereafter, attend those who, under the Divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others! With these wishes, and this benediction, the commander in chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn—and the military scene to him, will be closed for ever.

E. Hand, adj. gen.

To the preceding address the officers of the part of the army remaining on the banks of the Hudson, returned a suitable answer; they thanked the commander in chief for the communication of his affectionate assurances of his inviolable attachment and friendship; they assured his excellency that although as yet his endeavors to ensure the

armies the just reward of their services had failed of success, they were convinced that it had arisen from causes which it was not in his power to control, and should the contemplated measure never be attained that their patriotism should still remain unshaken: They were happy in the opportunity of congratulating his excellency on the certain conclusion of the *Definitive Treaty of Peace*, assuring him that, relieved at last from long suspense, their warmest wish was to return to the bosom of their country, to resume the character of citizens; and that it should be their highest ambition to become useful ones. To his excellency they were convinced that this great event must be peculiarly pleasing; because, while at the head of the armies, urged by patriotic virtues and magnanimity, he persevered under the pressure of every possible difficulty and discouragement, in the pursuit of the great objects of the war—the freedom and safety of his country;—his heart panted for the tranquil enjoyments of peace. They concluded with sincere prayers to God long to bestow happiness to their commander, and that when he quits the stage of hu-

man life, he may receive from the UNERRING JUDGE, the rewards of valor exerted to save the oppressed, of patriotism, and disinterested virtue.

On the 25th Nov. 1783, New-York was evacuated by the British army; the same day the American troops marched in and took possession of the city; after which General Washington and the governor made their public entry.

Previous to General Washington's leaving New-York, on the 6th of December, the principal officers of the army then in the city, assembled at Francis's tavern, to take a final leave of their illustrious and much-loved commander. The passions of human nature were never more tenderly agitated than in this interesting scene. His excellency having filled a glass of wine, thus addressed his brave fellow-soldiers :—

“ With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you : I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be prosperous and happy, as your former ones have been glorious and honorable.”

These words produced extreme sensibility on both sides; they were answered by

warm expressions, and fervent wishes, from the gentlemen of the army, whose truly pathetic feelings it is not in our power to convey to the reader.

*General Washington's Address to Congress,
on the Resignation of his Commission.*

"Mr. President,

"THE great events, on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honor of offering my sincere congratulations to Congress, and of presenting myself before them, to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country.

"Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable nation—I resign, with satisfaction, the appointment I accepted with diffidence, a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which, however, was superseded by a con-

fidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the union, and the patronage of Heaven.

“The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest.

“While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge, in this place, the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the war. It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should be more fortunate; permit me, sir, to recommend in particular those who have continued in the service to the present moment, as worthy the favorable notice and patronage of Congress.

“I consider it as an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of the Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping.

"Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action; and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.

G. WASHINGTON.

City of Annapolis, Dec. 23, 1783.

With these becoming sentiments, Gen. Washington retired from the toils of war to enjoy in private the rural pleasures of Mount Vernon, carrying with him the thanks and blessings of a grateful people, emulating the example of the virtuous Roman General,* who, victorious, left the tented field, covered with honor, and withdrew from public life.

No person, who had not the advantage of being present when he received the intelligence of peace, and who did not accompany him to his domestic retirement, can de-

* Cincinnatus.

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ry was ever annexed by Congress to his important command, and he only drew weekly for the expenses of his public table and other necessary demands, although proposals have been made in the most delicate manner, particularly by the state of Virginia and Pennsylvania. His conduct in this particular is noble and magnanimous and exhibits to the world an undeniable evidence of self disinterestedness, of the purity of his motives and integrity of his heart. His answer to the Governor of Virginia, declining the acceptance of a pension from that state, is so characteristic of his whole public conduct, that we are induced to give it in his own words, and we are convinced it will prove acceptable to his admirers.

LETTER

his Excellency GENERAL WASHINGTON, the Governor of Virginia, declining the acceptance of fifty shares in the companies opening the navigation of James and Potomac Rivers, which had been vested in him by act of the legislature of that commonwealth, as a small acknowledgment of his merits and services.

Your excellency having been pleased to transmit to me a copy of the act approving to my benefit, certain shares in the companies for opening the navigation of James and Potomac rivers, I take the liberty of turning to the assembly, through your excellency, the profound and grateful acknowledgments, inspired by so signal a mark of beneficent intentions towards me. I beg, sir, to assure them, that I am filled on every occasion with every sentiment which flows from a heart warm with love for my country—sensible to every token of its approbation and affection, and solicitous to conform, in every instance, to a respectful submission to its wishes. With these senti-

ments in my bosom, I need not dwell on the anxiety I feel, in being obliged in the present instance to decline a favor, which is rendered no less flattering by the manner in which it is conveyed, than it is affectionate in the motive. In explaining this obligation, I pass over a comparison of my endeavors in the present service, with the many honorable testimonies of approbation which have already been so far over-rated and over-paid them—reducing me to one consideration only, which supersedes the necessity of recurring to every other. When I was first called to the station of Secretary, which I was honored during the late war to fill for our liberties; to the diffidence which I had so many reasons to feel in accepting of it, I thought it my duty to join a *firm resolution to shut my hand against every pecuniary recompense*. To this resolution I have inviolably adhered; and from this resolution (if I had the inclination) I do not consider myself at liberty to depart. We repeat, therefore, my fervent acknowledgments to the legislature for their very kind sentiments and intentions in my favor, and at the same time beg them to be persuaded that a remembrance of this singular

of goodness towards me, will never cease to cherish returns of the warmest affection and gratitude; I must pray that their act, so far as it has for its object my personal emolument, may not have its effect. But if it should please the general assembly to permit me to turn the destination of the fund vested in me, from my private emolument to objects of a public nature, it will be my study in selecting these, to prove the sincerity of my gratitude, by preferring such as may appear most subservient to the enlightened and patriotic views of the legislature.

I am, &c.

GEORGE WASHINGTON."

Although the enlightened mind of General Washington felt superior to such considerations, and nobly refused any recompense for himself, yet he eloquently, though unsuccessfully pleaded the cause of his fellow-soldiers, and other public creditors: He considered himself as pledged to the army that their country would do them ample justice in rewarding them for their glo-

rious services, exercised in its defence, and finally crowned by the complete establishment of its liberty and independence.

General Washington, having retired from all public employment, now assumed the character of a private gentleman; he employed himself in improving his farms and plantations, and in cultivating the arts of peace. But in this retreat of happiness and rural simplicity he was not suffered long to remain; it was too soon for the *father of America* to leave his infant care, his well-tried virtues were generally and justly known to his fellow citizens, and their confidence in his judgment, experience and disinterested patriotism, was universal even to enthusiasm. Four years had not expired from the period at which he resigned his military command, when the voice of his country again called him to its service—in the year 1787, he was elected a delegate to the federal convention which met at Philadelphia to form the new constitution, and was chosen president thereof. General Washington, after the adoption of the federal constitution, was, on the 6th of April, 1789, unanimously elected President



of the United States—whereupon the citizens testified with becoming joy, their confidence and approbation at his appointment to the office of chief magistrate, and innumerable addresses reiterated his praise, from every part of the union.

His triumphal entry into Philadelphia on his way to New-York, the seat of government, to assume the duties of his important office, merits a minute description.—Early on the morning of the 20th of April, his Excellency Thomas Mifflin, Esq. governor of the state, the Hon. Richard Peters, Esq. speaker of the legislature of the state, the old city troop of horse, and another troop from the city, commanded by captain Bingham, waited the arrival of their beloved *Washington*, at the line between the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware, to which place they had proceeded the evening before.

After paying the tribute of military honor due to his rank and exalted character, by proper salutes and otherwise, they escorted him into Chester, where they breakfasted, and rested a couple of hours.

This great and worthy man, finding he

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could not possibly elude the parade which necessarily must attend manifestations of joy and affection, when displayed by grateful people, to their patriot benefactor. He ordered his carriages into the rear of the whole line and mounted an elegant horse accompanied by the venerable patriot Charles Thompson, Esq. and his former aide-de-camp, the celebrated Colonel Humphreys, both of whom were also mounted on horseback.

On their way to the city, they were joined by detachments from the Chester and Philadelphia troops of horse, and also by a number of respectable citizens, at whose head was the worthy citizen and soldier his Excellency Arthur St. Clair, Esq. governor of the Western Territory. Then they proceeded to Gray's ferry on the Schuylkill; observing the strictest order and regularity during the march. But the scene presented itself, that even the pencil of a Raphael could not delineate.

The bridge was highly decorated with laurel and other evergreens, by Mr. Green, the ingenious Mr. Peal, and others, and in such a style as to display uncommon taste.

in these gentlemen. At each end there were erected magnificent arches composed of laurel, emblematical of the ancient triumphal arches, used by the Romans, and on each side of the bridge a laurel shrubbery, which seemed to challenge even nature herself for simplicity, ease, and elegance. And as our beloved Washington passed the bridge, a lad, beautifully ornamented with sprigs of laurel, assisted by certain machinery, let drop above the hero's head unperceived by him, a civic crown of laurel.

But who can describe the heart-felt congratulations of more than twenty thousand free citizens who lined every fence, field, and avenue, between the bridge and the city. The aged sire, the venerable matron, the blooming virgin, and the ruddy youth, were all emulous in their plaudits—nay, the sleeping infant did not withhold its innocent smile of praise and approbation.

In short, all classes and descriptions of citizens discovered (and they felt what they discovered) the most undistinguished attachment and unbounded zeal for their dear chief, and I may add, under God, the Sa-

viour of their country. Not all the pomp of majesty, nor even imperial dignity itself, surrounded with its usual splendor and magnificence, could equal this interesting scene.

*Inaugural Address of the President of the
United States to both houses of Congress.*

Gentlemen,

“ Among the vicissitudes incident to life, no event could have filled me with greater anxieties, than that, of which the notification was transmitted by your order, and received on the fourteenth day of the present month; on the one hand, I was summoned by my country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love, from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predeliction, and, in my flattering hopes, with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years : a retreat which was rendered every day more necessary, as well as more dear to me, by the addition of habit to inclination, and of frequent interruptions

in health, to the gradual waste committed on it by time. On the other hand, the magnitude and difficulty of the trust, to which the voice of my country called me, being sufficient to awaken in the wisest and most experienced of her citizens, a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondence, one, who, inheriting inferior endowments from nature, and unpractised in the duties of civil administration, ought to be peculiarly conscious of his own deficiencies. In this conflict of emotions, all I dare aver is, that it has been my faithful study to collect my duty from a just appreciation of every circumstance, by which it might be affected.

All I dare hope, is that if, in executing this task, I have been too much swayed by a grateful remembrance of former instances, or by an affectionate sensibility to this transcendent proof of the confidence of my fellow-citizens—and have thence too little consulted my incapacity as well as disinclination for the weighty and untried cares before me—my error will be palliated by the motives which misled me, and its consequences be judged by my country, with

some share of the partiality in which they originated.

“Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station—it would be peculiarly improper to omit in the first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations,—and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a government instituted by themselves, for these essential purposes: and may enable every instrument employed in its administration, to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large, less than either.—No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men, more than the people of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to

the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some tokens of providential agency. And in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government, the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities, from which the event has resulted, cannot be compared with the means by which most governments have been established, without some return of pious gratitude, along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join me, I trust, to thinking, that there are none under the influence of which the proceeding of a new and free government can more auspiciously commence.

“By the article establishing the executive department, it is made the duty of the president ‘to recommend to your consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.’ The circumstances under which I now meet you, will acquit me from entering into that subject, further

than to refer to the great constitutional charter under which you are now assembled; and which in defining your powers, designates the objects to which your attention is to be given. It will be more consistent with those circumstances, and far more congenial with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute in place of a recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, the rectitude, and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected to devise and to adopt them. In these qualifications, I behold the surest pledges, that as, on one side, no local prejudices or attachments—no separate views—nor party animosities, will mis-direct the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests; so, on another, that the foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality; and the pre-eminence of free government, be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its citizens, and command the respect of the world. I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent

for my country can inspire ; since there is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy and course of nature, an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, between the genuine interests of an honest and magnanimous politician and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity, since we ought to be no less persuaded, that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself hath ordained and since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

Besides the ordinary objects submitted to your care, it will remain with your judgment to decide how far an exercise of the judicial power delegated by the fifth article of the constitution is rendered expedient at the present juncture, by the nature of the objections which have been urged against the system, or by the degree of inquietude

which has given birth to them. Instead of undertaking particular recommendations on this subject, in which I could be guided by no lights derived from official opportunities, I shall again give way to my entire confidence in your discernment and pursuit of the public good: for I assure myself that whilst you carefully avoid every altercation which might endanger the benefits of an united and effective government, or which ought to await the future lessons of experience; a reverence for the characteristic rights of freemen, and a regard for the public harmony, will sufficiently influence your deliberations on the question, how far the former can be more impregnably fortified, or the latter be safely and advantageously promoted.

“To the preceding observations, I have one to add, which will be most properly addressed to the House of Representatives. It concerns myself, and therefore will be as brief as possible. When I was first honored with a call into the service of my country, then on the eve of an arduous struggle for its liberties, the light in which I contemplated my duty required that I should renounce every pecuniary compensation

From this resolution I have in no instance departed. And being still under the impressions which produced it, I must decline, as inapplicable to myself, any share in the personal emoluments which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the executive department; and must accordingly pray that the pecuniary estimates for the station in which I am placed, may, during my continuance in it, be limited to such actual expenditures as the public good may be thought to require.

“Having thus imparted to you my sentiments, as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the human race, in humble supplication, that since he has been pleased to favor the American people, with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquillity, and dispositions for deciding with unparalled unanimity on a form of government, for the security of their union, and the advancement of their happiness; so his divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations,

and the wise measures on which the success of this government must depend.

G. WASHINGTON

The first session in congress, under the new constitution, continued their sitting from the 4th of March until the 26th of September. Their attention was chiefly directed towards the establishment of new regulations and restoration of the public credit of the United States, and other objects of political economy. During the progress of the session, the President resided at New York, sanctioning the proceedings of the legislature, and otherwise organizing the federal government. Shortly after the opening of Congress, he made a tour to the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Hampshire, attended by Messrs. Lee and Jackson, his secretaries. In every part of the country through which he passed, citizens embraced the opportunity of personally testifying their esteem and respect for the *man of their choice*, in whose character, whatever is great and good—what dignifies and adorns human nature, are happily united. All that a grateful people could pay was paid, whenever he appro

ed a town or village. the roads were lined with citizens to hail him welcome—the military escorted him from place to place. Particularly to relate all the gratefull testimonials which were paid him during the visit, is impossible from their number. If our limits would permit, a description of the manner in which he was received at Boston would be particularly interesting; nor can we specify the numerous congratulatory addresses which were presented him. But no particular circumstance gave him more pleasure, during the whole tour, than the plain and hearty manner in which Mr. Northey, the chairman of the selectmen at Salem received him. This gentleman is of the society of Friends, and when the President was presented to the selectmen, Mr. Northey being covered. took him by the hand and said, "Friend Washington, we are glad to see thee, and in behalf of the inhabitants, bid thee a hearty welcome to Salem."

On his arrival at Newburyport, the following incident occurred, a poor old soldier namen Cotten, who was with him in the memorable battle on the Ohio, when Brad-F.

dock was defeated, requested, and was admitted into the room where the President was—on the soldier's asking "*how Major Washington did?*" the President immediately recollected his person, and rising from his chair, took him by the hand, and tenderly inquired into the scenes of his life and present circumstances. "I thank God," answered the soldier, "that I have an opportunity of seeing my old commander once more, I have seen him in adversity, and now seeing him in glory, I can go home and die contented." The next morning, he came again to take leave of the President who gave him a guinea, which he accepted, he said, "merely as a token in remembrance of his commander," and which he wore pendent on his bosom, declaring that nothing earthly should separate it from him.

While General Washington was President of the United States, the following circumstance, which does honor to his humanity occurred. One Reuben Rouzy, of Virginian, owed him about a thousand pounds; one of the President's agents brought a suit for the money, judgment was obtained, and execution issued against the body of t

defendant, who was taken to gaol. He had a considerable landed property, but this kind of property, cannot be sold in Virginia for debts, unless at the discretion of the person. He had a large family, and preferred lying in gaol to selling his land, for the sake of his children.—Some of his acquaintance hinted to him, that probably General Washington did not know any thing of the proceedings, and it might be well to send him a petition, with a statement of the circumstances. He did so, and the very next post from Philadelphia, after his petition arrived, brought him a releasement, with a severe *reprimand* on the agent for acting in such a cruel manner, without consent. Poor Rouzy was, in consequence, restored to his family and happiness, who never laid down their heads at night, without offering their prayers to Heaven for our *much beloved* WASHINGTON.

In 1791, the attention of the Executive was engaged in devising modes to reconcile the citizens, in some districts of the union, to the law, enacted for the purpose of collecting a certain duty on spirits, distilled within the United States, in some of the

states, particularly the western parts of Pennsylvania, where a regular and formidable opposition began to manifest itself, in consequence of which, the special interposition of the President was deemed advisable. He issued a proclamation recommending a compliance with the laws, and warning the citizens against all unlawful proceedings and combinations, having a tendency to obstruct the same.

The second Congress met again in November, 1792. The President opened the session with a speech, the greatest part of which respected the unfortunate endeavors to terminate the Indian hostilities. He informed Congress of the opposition which had been manifested to the excise law, and recommended a revision of the judiciary system. He further observed, that three loans had been negotiated for the use of the United States, one at Antwerp, and two at Amsterdam, each for three millions of florins, on very reasonable terms, which afforded a pleasing evidence of the increasing credit of the new government. On the 2d, of March, 1793, this session adjourned.

On the 8th of April, 1793, citizen Genet



ived at Charleston, as minister plenipotentiary from the executive of France to the President of the United States. On 22d of same month the President issued a proclamation, enjoining the citizens of the United States to a strict neutrality, in the contest between the maritime powers, and threatening prosecution to all who should transgress the same. The public approbation of this wise measure, for the preservation of the public tranquillity, was manifested in numerous addresses to the President, thanking him in warm terms for his attention to the interest of the citizens. Genet arrived at Philadelphia, the seat of government, on 17th of May. The conduct of this minister is, perhaps, unexampled in diplomatic history. It was not until the publication of the proclamation of the President, enjoining neutrality, that the government first heard of his arrival, and even then, they were only informed through the medium of newspapers, about a fortnight after his arrival; instead of presenting his credentials to the President, he began to assume a conduct imprudent and unbecoming; he undertook to authorize the fitting out of

armed vessels, he enlisted citizens and others, and gave commission to cruise and commit hostilities against the vessels of England and other nations at war with France, but who were, at the same time, at peace with the United States. These vessels had actually taken prizes, brought them into American ports, where the consuls of France held courts of admiralty, tried, condemned, and authorized their sale as legal prizes. These proceedings, in opposition to the peace of the United States, were instantly complained of by Mr. Hammond the British minister; thus were the seeds of future controversy planted. The government of the United States interfered, and, in some cases, over-ruled the proceedings of both the British and French, as illegal; remonstrances were exhibited to the President, from both sides, which created a series of diplomatic correspondance. A new source of discontent, on the part of the French now arose; Genet, demanded, with some abruptness, money from the treasury of the United States, in part payment of their debt to France, with which the American government found it inconvenient to comply. This

state of diplomatic hostility could not be expected to hold out long without coming to a crisis. Accordingly, on the 16th of August, the President ordered Mr. Jefferson, the secretary of state, to address a letter to Mr. Morris, the American ambassador in France, soliciting the republic to recall their minister. In the mean time Citizen Duplaine, Vice-consul for the republic of France, in the port of Boston, having committed sundry encroachments on the laws of the United States, the President in consequence thereof, suspended his powers.

The term for which General Washington was elected President having expired, he was again re-elected to the same office.

In 1794, during the recess of congress, the attention of the President of the United States was called to suppress an insurrection, which began to assume a very formidable aspect. It was confined to the western parts of the state of Pennsylvania. The outlines of it are as follows, viz. During the year 1790, the Congress of the United States, found it necessary "to lay and collect excises." This mode of taxation, discordant to the genius of the citizens, in many

parts of the union, met with considerable opposition, which, however, was gradually banished by reason and patriotism, excepting the four western counties of Pennsylvania, where a prejudice still remained and produced symptoms of riot and violence. The disaffection was at first vented in general complaints; certain associations were formed to prevent the operation of the law and the excise officers received some measure of contempt and rudeness. These associations held public meetings, and published their resolutions. Besides the excise law they censured several other acts of the federal government; as the exorbitant salaries of office, the institution of a national bank, the interest of the public debt, &c.

On the 6th of September, 1794, the collector of the revenue for that district was seized by a party, armed, and in disguise they tarred and feathered him, cut off his hair, and committed other acts of violence. A legal process was therefore issued against the offenders, but the insurgents prevented the marshal from serving them; they fired upon him, arrested, and, for some time, detained him as a prisoner: a number of sin

ar outrages were committed. The President, the ever watchful guardian of the constitution, beheld with sorrow these excesses; he sought and weighed what was best to be done in this momentous crisis; he beheld the judiciary stripped of its capacity to enforce the laws, and crimes, which reached to the very existence of social order, perpetrated without control; the friends of government insulted, and that constitution violated, which he had made a sacred vow to protect; he beheld with abhorrence the idea of "arraying citizen against citizen," until every lenient measure should be exhausted.—He issued proclamations, exhorting the rioters to desist from such disorderly proceedings, he recommended obedience to the laws, he appointed commissioners to repair to the scene of insurrection, authorized them to confer with the insurgents, to relate to them his sensations, to assure them that it was his earnest wish to avoid a resort to coercion; he even offered them pardon, on condition of receiving satisfactory assurance of obedience to the laws.

These lenient measures did not produce the good effects that should have been ex-

pected. The President therefore deemed it prudent to resort to military force.—Fifteen thousand militia were put in motion; their number intimidated the insurgents; thus the insurrection was quelled without the effusion of blood; some of the ringleaders were apprehended and brought to trial; one of them was found guilty of high treason and condemned to suffer, but was pardoned by the President.—Indeed, the same goodness of disposition actuated the President from the beginning to the termination of this licentious invasion of the laws, notwithstanding there are in the United States certain discontented, invidious individuals who wish to stigmatize every act of Executive with opprobrium.

In November, 1794, the third Congress held their second session at Philadelphia. The President began his speech with a history of the opposition which had been manifested to the constitution and laws of the United States, and of the means which he had pursued to suppress it; the alacrity with which the militia, and others who volunteered their service displayed, exhibited, he said, “to the highest advantage, 1

value of republican government; to behold the most and least wealthy of our citizens, standing in the same ranks as private soldiers, pre-eminently distinguished by being the army of the constitution; undeterred by a march of three hundred miles, over rugged mountains, by the approach of an inclement season, or by any other discouragement." He recommended to Congress to reimburse the officers of government and other citizens, who had sustained losses, for their generous exertions for upholding the constitution and laws, "the amount," he said, "would not be great, and on future emergencies, the government would be amply repaid by the influence of an example, that he who incurs a loss in its defence, shall find a recompense in its liberality." The intelligence from the army of general Wayne, acting against the hostile Indians N. W. of the Ohio, he said, afforded a happy presage to the military operations; that they had damped the ardour and obstinacy of the savages.—Yet although the power of the United States to punish them could not be questioned, that he was not unwilling to sement a lasting peace, upon

terms of equity and good neighborhood; recommended the adoption of a definite plan for the redemption of the public debt; and in subsequent communications he transmitted to them, certain papers relative to the intercourse of the United States with foreign nations; they announced to Congress and to the world, his unremitting exertions to cultivate peace with all the world; to observe treaties with good faith, to check deviations from the line of impartiality, and to explain and correct what was misapprehended or appeared injurious.

Ever since the formal ratification of the treaties of peace between the United States and Great Britain, numerous causes of complaint have existed on the part of both countries respecting its fulfilment. The history of the nature, progress, and final determination of these disputes, will form a very interesting part in the history of the political and diplomatic character of *President Washington*; but the bounds which we have assigned to the present sketch, prevents us from entering fully upon the subject: The ground of complaint on both sides, was computed in 1792, in a correspondence between

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Mr. Jefferson, secretary of state, and Mr. Hammond, the envoy of Britain; in their letters, the reciprocal complaints are stated with candour, perspicuity and completeness; to support their respective arguments, they bring forward on each side, a large body of illustrations and authorities which are highly interesting. This correspondence was published by Congress in 1794. The arguments of Mr. Jefferson appeared to have contained unanswerable weight, as no reply or explanation was ever made to them, although requested by him. Affairs remained in this state of suspense until June 1793, when the British, in consequence of their hostilities with France, issued orders to the commanders of their vessels, to stop all neutral vessels carrying provisions to any port in that republic; ships attempting to enter any French port, blockaded by the English, were to be condemned, both vessel and cargo, whatever it may consist of: the order contained a limited exception in favor of Denmark and Sweden, but in the execution of it, the rights of America were entirely disregarded. This matter produced a diplomatic discussion between the ministers

of the two countries, both at London and Philadelphia: Their correspondence produced a mutual wish on both sides to establish a treaty of commerce, and a friendly adjustment of all complaints. The President of the United States, accordingly nominated Mr. John Jay, chief judge of the United States, as an envoy extraordinary to the court of London. After a short passage Mr. Jay arrived in London, where he met with a polite reception, and negotiated the *Treaty of Peace, Commerce and Navigation* which at present exists between the two countries.

The Treaty arrived in Philadelphia in March 1795; it was shortly after submitted to the Senate for their consent; they returned it to the president on the 24th of June, and advised the constitutional ratification thereof. About the 30th of the same month it was submitted to the public through the medium of the newspapers. It now became the general topic of conversation; it was placed in all the different points of view of which it was susceptible, and in many of which it could not admit.

It met with great opposition. Addresses

and resolutions were received from all the commercial towns of the union; some advising the ratification, others disapproving of it in *toto*. This opposition was viewed by the President in a very serious light; he considered the subject and weighed all the arguments which had been advanced against it; his own opinion was not in favor of it, but he did not wish to differ from the Senate, and thought that it would be better to ratify it in the manner they had advised; to this measure he was also induced, as Mr. Jay had asserted "that no better terms could possibly be obtained; that the obstinacy in rejecting the settlement might be serious." The President therefore assented, and ratifications were exchanged, with the suspension of the most objectionable article.

This transaction is perhaps the most unfortunate that occurred to his excellency during the whole period of his presidency. Those opposed to the treaty did not fail to load him with reproach: no stone was left unturned that could impress upon the minds of the citizens gross falsehoods; such as that the treaty contained no reciprocal advanta-

ges, that the benefits were all on the Britain, that their rights were not only lected, but absolutely sold, that it was with the design of oppressing the f and contrary to every principle of gra and sound policy.

The first session of the fourth Congress at Philadelphia, December, 1795. The President in a speech informed them that negotiations were on foot for the adjustment of affairs with the hostile Indians, and with the Dey and Regency of Algiers he had received assurances of a speedy satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations with Spain; that with the advice of the Senate he had ratified a treaty with England upon a condition which excepts part of the article. He recommended a review of the military establishment, and to make provision for garrisoning and securing the western posts which were to be delivered up to the British. He informed them that as to the finance and appropriations necessary for the ensuing year would be laid before them, as also statements relative to the progress in providing materials for building frigates, state of fortifications, and m

magazines, &c. He concluded with a recommendation of temperate discussion and mutual forbearance in subjects where a difference of opinion may be apt to arise

A warm and lengthy discussion took place in the House of Representatives relative to the British treaty. Both sides of the question were ably supported; few subjects had ever come before the house, upon which so many members delivered their sentiments. On the 24th of March, 1796. they came to a resolution, requesting the President to lay before the House, a copy of the instructions to Mr. Jay. together with his correspondence and other documents relative to that treaty. To which request the President gave a positive refusal; he assured the House, that he had always endeavoured to harmonize with the other branches of the government, and that he had never withheld any information which the constitution enjoined him to give. But that the nature of foreign negotiations required caution and secrecy, that all the papers relative thereto had been laid before the Senate, that the constitution empowered him to make treaties with the consent of that body, but that

it would establish a dangerous precedent to admit a right in the House of Representatives to demand and have all papers respecting foreign negotiations with foreign powers, after the treaties were finally concluded and ratified, and the assent of that house not necessary to their validity.

We deem it unnecessary to enter into a history of the differences with the republic of France, as they are not yet terminated, and are so recent as to be generally remembered, suffice it to observe, that during the whole period in which General Washington sat at the helm of public affairs, his whole conduct has uniformly exhibited moderation and prudence, magnanimity and firmness, wisdom and virtue.

The period of General Washington's second election of the Chief Magistrate being nearly expired, he put on a determined resolution to retire from the public, and enjoy his declining years in private life. Upon this momentous occasion, resigning a charge which he at first accepted through his enthusiasm for the principles of *rational liberty*, he was impressed with the purest wishes for the future happiness of that republic,

which he had devoted the early, the mature and a portion of his declining years to establish. And as a testimony of pure regard, he published the following masterly address to his fellow-citizens.

ADDRESS

Of his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq. President of the United States, announcing his intention of retiring from all public employment.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES :

Friends and Fellow-citizens,

THE period of a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I

should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation, which binds a dutiful citizen to his country ; and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest ; no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness ; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly, hoped, that it would be much earlier in my power, consistently with motives, which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to

this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice, that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty, or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impression with which I first undertook the arduous trust, were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say, that I have with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government, the best exertions of which a very fallible judgement was capable. Not unconscious, in the outset, of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of oth-

ers, has strengthened the motives to the defence of myself; and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more, that the shade of retirement is necessary to me, as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have been peculiarly valuable to my services, they were temporary; I have the consolation to believe, that while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment, when it is intended to terminate the career of public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgement of the debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country, for the many honours it has conferred on me; still more for the steady confidence with which it has supported me; and the opportunities I have thence enjoyed, manifesting my inviolable attachment, by services faithful and persevering, though usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise, and as an instructive example in our annals, that under circumstances in which



he passions, agitated in every direction, were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not infrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts, and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected.—Proudly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to the grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows, that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of their states, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete, by so careful a preservation, and so prudent a use of this blessing, as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection, and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a

solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with myself, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplations, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments, which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all-important to the permanency of your felicity as a people. These will be offered to you with the more freedom, as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people, is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home,

your peace abroad ; of your safety, of your prosperity ; of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth ; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insiduously) directed, it is of infinite moment, that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union, to your collective and individual happiness ; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment to it ; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity ; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety ; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned ; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alineate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

From this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of *American*, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must also exalt the just pride of patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together: the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest. Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the union of the whole.

The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the South, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds in the pro-

luctions of the latter, great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South, in the same intercourse, benefitting by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow, and its commerce expanded. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it contributes in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of the maritime strength to which itself is unequally adapted. The East, in a like intercourse with the West, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications, by land and water, will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad, or manufactures at home. The West derives from the East, supplies exquisite to its growth and comfort; and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the *secure* enjoyment of indispensable *outlets* for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic

side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as one *nation*.— Any other tenure by which the West can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength, or from an apostate and unnatural connexion with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in Union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and what is of inestimable value! they must derive from Union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighboring countries, not tied together by the same government; which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments and intrigues would stimulate and embitter.—Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which



under any form of government are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican Liberty ; in this sense, it is that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflection and virtuous mind, and exhibit the continuance of the Union as a primary object of patriotic desire.—Is there a doubt whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere?—Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. 'Tis well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to Union, affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will also be reason to distrust the patriotism of those, who, in any

quarter, may endeavor to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our union, it occurs as matter of serious concern, that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by *Geographical* discriminations, "*Northern and Southern, Atlantic and Western;*" whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief, that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence, within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart-burnings which spring from these misrepresentations: they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our western country have lately had an useful lesson on this head: they have seen in the negotiation by the executive, and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate, of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event, throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them,



of the policy in the general government and in the Atlantic states unfriendly to their interests in regard to the *Mississippi*; they have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them every thing they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservations of these advantages on the *Union* by which they were procured? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would serve them from their brethren and connect them with aliens?

To the efficacy and permanency of your union, a government for the whole is indispensable.—No alliances, however strict, between the parts, can be an adequate substitute; they must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances, in all times, have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay, by the adoption of a constitution of government better calculated than your former for an intimate union, and for the efficacious management

of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice, influenced and unawed, adopted upon investigation and mature deliberation, is completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself the provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support.

Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, and the performance of its duties enjoined by the fundamental principles of true *Liberty*. The basis of our political system is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government; but, the constitution which at this time exists, till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is absolutely obligatory upon all. The very declaration of the power and right of the people to alter or to abolish government, pre-supposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations under whatever plausible character, with the design to direct, control, counteract, or

the regular deliberations and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of the fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation, the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill-concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent plans digested by common councils, and modified by mutual interests.

However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people, and to usurp for themselves the reins of government; destroying afterwards the very engines which lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government, and the permanency of your pre-

sent happy state, it is requisite, not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority, but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretends. One method of assault may be to affect in the forms of the constitution alterations which will impair the energy of the system, and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments, as of other human institutions; that experience is the surest standard, by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country; that facility in changes upon the credit of mere hypothesis and opinion, and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interest, in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigour as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty, is indispensable. Liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is indeed little else

han a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and so maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with a particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate dominion of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissention, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a

frightful despotism.—But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries, which generally result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns his disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty.

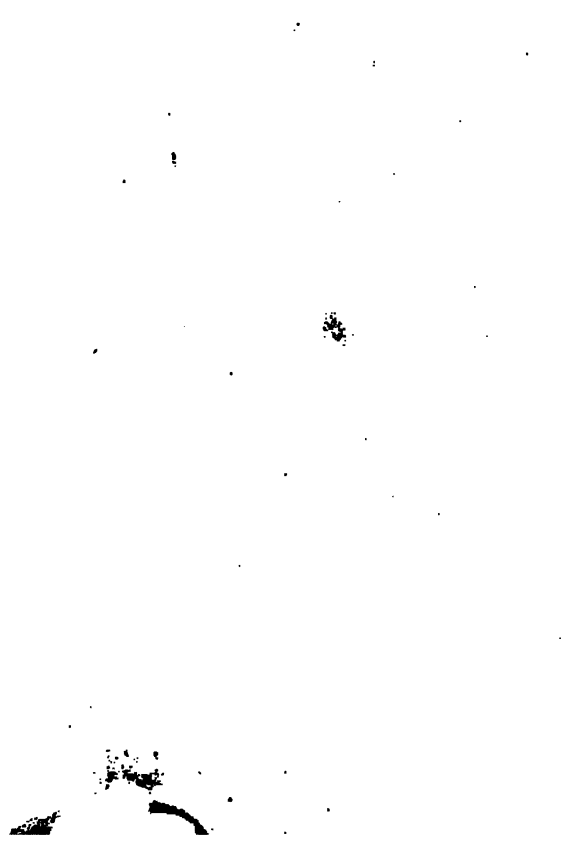
Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischief of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the public counsels, and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with illfounded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another; foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself, through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.



TOMB OF WASHINGTON.





There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This, within certain limits, is probably true; and in governments of a monarchical cast, patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be, by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest instead of warming, it should consume.

It is important likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution, in those intrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of their powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate

the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominates in the human heart, is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of the political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories, and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions by others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern: some of them in our own country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in a way which the constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil, any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equal with the pious man, ought to respect and cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connexions with the private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigations in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure; reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

'Tis substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free govern-

ment. Who that is a sincere friend to it, can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?

Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened. As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it, is to use it as sparingly as possible; avoiding the occasions of expenses by cultivating peace; but remembering also, that timely disbursements to prepare for danger, frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burthen which we ourselves ought to bear. The execution of these maxims belongs to our representatives; but it is necessary that public opinion should co-operate.

To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should

practically bear in mind, that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue : there must be taxes ; and no taxes can be devised that are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant ; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper objects, (which is always a choice of difficulties) ought to be a decisive motive for candid construction of the conduct of the government in the making it, and for the spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue, which the public exigences may at any time dictate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations : religion and morality enjoin this conduct ; and can it be, that good policy does not equally enjoin it ? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt, that in the course of time and things, the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it ?—Can it be that Providence has not connected the

permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature.—Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices!

In the execution of such a plan, nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations, and passionate attachments for others, should be excluded; and that in the place of them, just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interests. Antipathy in one nation against another, disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and untractable, when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur.

Hence, frequent collisions, obstinate envenomed and bloody contests.—The nation prompted by ill-will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, con-

to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity, and adopts, through passion, what reason would reject; at other times it makes the animosity of the nation convenient to projects of hostility, instigated by pride, ambition, and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, times perhaps the liberty of nations, even the victim.

likewise a passionate attachment of one nation to another, produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, creating the illusion of an imaginary common interest, in cases where no real common interest exists, and infusing into one the animosities of the other, betrays the former to a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favorite nation of privileges denied to others, which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concession, by necessarily parting with what ought to have been retained; and by exciting jealousy, ill-will, and a disposition to retaliate, in other parties from whom equal privileges

are withheld: And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation) facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country, without odium, sometimes even with popularity; gilding with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption or infatuation.

As an avenue to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practise the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak, towards a great and powerful nation, dooms the former to be the satellite of the other.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be *constantly* awake; since history and experience prove, that foreign influence

is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy to be useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defence against it. Excessive partiality for one foreign nation, and excessive dislike of another, cause those whom they actuate to see the danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even to second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious; while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little *political* connexions as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. —Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns.

H*

Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations or collisions of her friendship or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off, when we may defy material injury from external annoyance: when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality, we may at any time resolve upon, to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice shall counsel.

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor or caprice?

'Tis our true policy to steer clear of per-

ent alliances, with any portion of the
gn world: so far, I mean, as we are
at liberty to do it: for let me not be
rstood as capable of patronizing infi-
r to existing engagements. I hold the
m no less applicable to public than
te affairs, that honesty is always the
policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those
gements be observed in their genuine
But, in my opinion, it is unneces-
and would be unwise, to extend them.
king care always to keep ourselves, by
se establishments, on a respectable
sive posture, we may safely trust to
rary alliances for extraordinary emer-
es.

rmony and liberal intercourse with all
ns, are commended by policy, humani-
d interest. But even our commercial
y should hold an equal and impartial
neither seeking nor granting exclusive
or preferences; consulting the natural
e of things; diffusing and diversifying,
ntle means, the streams of commerce,
rcing nothing, establishing, with pow-
o disposed, in order to give trade a
course, to defend the rights of our

merchants, and to enable the government to support them ; conventional rules of intercourse, the best that circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate ; constantly keeping in view, that 'tis folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another ; that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character ; that by such acceptance it may place itself in the condition of having giving equivalents for nominal favors, and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect, or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. 'Tis an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impressions I could wish ; that they will control the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the des-

tiny of nations : But, if I may even flatter myself, that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good ; that they may now and then recur to it, to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism ; this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude of your welfare, by which they have been dictated.

How far in the discharge of my official duties, I have been guided by the principles that have been delineated, the public records, and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is, that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April, 1793, is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your Representatives in both Houses of Congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me ; uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

After deliberate examination, with the

aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take, and was bound in duty and in interest, to take a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it, with moderation, perseverance and firmness.

The considerations which respect the right to hold this conduct, it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe, that according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without any thing more, from the obligations which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.

The inducement of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavour to gain time to our country to settle

and mature its yet recent institutions, and progress without interruption, to that degree of strength and consistency, which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in viewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error: I am nevertheless, too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. *Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence; and that after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service, with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.*

Relying on its kindness in this, as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it, which is so natural to a man, who views in it the natural soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations; I anticipated with pleasing expectation, that retreat, in which I promise myself to

realize, without alloy, the sweet enjoyment of partaking, in the midst of my fellow-citizens, the bening influence of good laws under a free government; the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy rewards, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors, and dangers.

G. WASHINGTON.

*United States,
17th September, 1796.*

On the 7th of December, 1796, President Washington delivered his last speech to the representatives of the people at the opening of the second session of the fourth Congress. We regret that our contracted limits will not uermit of inserting it verbatim. In this address he communicates information respecting the measures taken for carrying into effect treaties with the Indian nations, Great Britain, Spain, and Algiers. He likewise informs, that measures are in operation for effecting treaties with the Regencies of Tunis and Tripoli. He wishes the United States to look to the means, and to set about

the gradual creation of a navy; so that a future war of Europe may not find our commerce in the same unprotected state in which it was found by the present.

He then proceeded to recommend the establishment of certain branches of manufacture on public account; *particularly those which are of a nature essential to the furnishing and equipping of the public force in time of war.*

He judiciously recommends the institution of a Board of Agriculture, composed of proper characters, charged with collecting and diffusing information, and enabled, by premiums and small pecuniary aids, to encourage and assist a spirit of discovery and improvement. Experience has proved this to be a cheap instrument of immense national benefit. He then recalls the attention of Congress, to a subject, he had before proposed to their consideration, the expediency of establishing a national university, and also a military academy. He points out as motives to the institution of a national university, the assimilation of the principles, opinions, and manners of our countrymen, by the common education of a portion of

our youth from every quarter, and remarks that the more homogeneous our citizens can be made in these particulars, the greater will be the prospect of our permanent union: and that a primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of GOVERNMENT. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? and what duty can be more pressing on its Legislature, than to patronize a plan for communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?

The institution of the military academy, he also observes, is recommended by cogent reasons. However pacific, says he, the general policy of a nation may be, it ought never to be without an adequate stock of military knowledge, for emergencies.

The following important paragraph, is verbatim: "The compensations to the officers of the United States, in various instances, and in none more than in respect to the most important stations, appear to call for legislative revision. The consequences of a defective provision are of serious import to the government. If private wealth

is to supply the defect of public contribution, it will greatly contract the sphere, within which the selection of character for office is to be made, and will proportionably diminish the probability of a choice of men able, as well as upright. Besides, that it would be repugnant to the vital principles of our government, virtually to exclude from public trusts, talents and virtue, unless accompanied by wealth."

The President then expresses his regret at the unpleasant circumstances which have occurred relative to the French republic; his ardent wish being to maintain cordial harmony, as far as is consistent with the rights and honor of our country.

The House of Representatives he informed, that the revenues of the United States continue in a state of progressive improvement: and are invited to take such further measures as will ascertain, to our country, the speedy extinguishment of the public debt.

He then concluded his address to both Houses of Congress, in the following words: "My solicitude to see the militia of the United States placed on an efficient estab-

lishment, has been so often and so ardently expressed, that I shall but barely recall the subject to your view, on the present occasion. At the same time, I shall submit to your inquiry, whether our harbours are yet sufficiently secured.

“The situation in which I now stand, for the last time, in the midst of the representatives of the people of the United States, naturally recalls the period when the administration of the present form of Government commenced; and I cannot omit the occasion to congratulate you and my country on the success of the experiment, nor to repeat my fervent supplications to the Supreme Ruler of the universe and Sovereign Arbiter of Nations, that his providential care may still be extended to these United States; that the virtue and happiness of the people may be preserved; and that the government which they have instituted for the protection of their liberties may be perpetual.”

A volume of letters, said to have been written by General Washington to Messrs. John Park Custis and Lund Washington, and which were reported to have been found

in a small wallet at fort Lee, were published by the British in 1776 ; wherein sinister and ambitious motives were attributed to the American Commander in guiding the destinies of his country. These letters were republished during his civil administration by his political adversaries.

To the numerous invectives, poured out upon him by party rancour, disappointed ambition, and vituperative calumny, during the whole course of his public career, he never replied except in the instance of these letters. In leaving the active scenes, in which he had been so long and so successfully employed, previous to his seeking the retirement of his domestic circle, which he felt to be congenial to his feelings, and knew to be necessary to his repose, and which he hoped would be free from the vexations of the world, its calumnies, and its cares ; he thought it a duty to himself, to his country, and to truth, to state (in a letter to the Secretary of State) that these letters were no other than base fabrications ; and that he had never seen or even heard of them until after their publication. He concluded by requesting that the letter

might be preserved in the Office of the Secretary of State as a witness for him to the present generation and to posterity.

After attending the new President at the inauguration and congratulating him on his accession to office, General Washington retired to his family residence at Maunt Vernon, where he turned his attention to agriculture; and in his moments of leizure amused himself with books or enjoyed the conversation of a few chosen friends.

The unjustifiable aggressions of the French Directory on our commerce, the probability of an invasion from that country, and the haughty treatment that our former envoys received at their hands, aroused the American government to more vigorous measures; resolutions were passed in Congress to establish a standing army that should be ready to repel any attempt made by the foe to land upon our shores. At this juncture every eye was turned upon Washington as the only proper person to command the American army; and the appointment of Lieutenant General of all the armies raised and to be raised for the service of the United States was sent to him through the Sec-

retary of war. His advanced age, and bodily infirmities arising from his early and long exposure to the inclemencies of warfare, and, more than these, his ardent wish for retirement would have probably induced him to decline accepting his commission had he not foreseen that the French Directory, deceived in their notions of assistance from the American militia whom they believed were ready to revolt on the first appearance of foreign aid, would willingly give up the contest when they should hear of the present preparations in America and accede to terms; and consequently he perceived the duties of his new station (should he accept it) would hardly require him to leave his family retreat, and Accordingly he accepted the appointment, with a reservation that he should not be called into the field until the army was in a situation to require his presence, or it became indispensable by the urgency of circumstances.— He added;

“In making this reservation, I beg it to be understood that I do not mean to withhold any assistance to arrange and organise

the army, which you may think I can afford. I take the liberty also to mention that I must decline having my acceptance considered as drawing after it any immediate charge upon the public; or that I can receive any emoluments annexed to the appointment before entering into a situation to incur expense."

The French Directory, as Washington had foreseen on the receipt of the news of operations in America, made in direct overtures for a renewal of negotiations. The opportunity was embraced immediately by President Adams who, with the advice and consent of the Senate, despatched once more, three Envoys Extraordinary to the French Republic. On their arrival in France, they found the government in the hands of Napoleon who had taken no part in the previous disputes between the two countries. Negotiations were immediately entered into, which ended in an amicable adjustment of all differences, but before the news of this success arrived in America George Washington, the first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his fellow citizens was no more.

On the 13th of December, 1799, he walked out into the fields to attend to some improvements on his estate and was overtaken by a slight fall of rain while returning. He was taken with the *croup* that night; but from humanity to his servants and tenderness to his physician, *very unfortunately* declined sending for medical aid, until daylight on Saturday morning.

"Before Dr. Craik arrived at Mount Vernon, the General had been bled by one of his overseers. The doctor repeated the same immediately; to whom the General observed, "he had sent for him too late;" and seemed to have a presentiment of his dissolution; Doctors Dick and Brown also attended.

"As his respiration became difficult, he said calmly, "*Doctors I die hard.*" But, notwithstanding the excruciating agonies of his violent disease, he tranquilly asked several questions during the evening. About fifteen minutes before he died, (which was between 11 and 12 o'clock, on Saturday night, the 14th of December) he said to Doctor Craik, "*doctor, what is the clock? how long am I to continue in this situation?*"

The doctor answered, "*Not long sir.*" He then rejoined, with the firmest countenance imaginable, "*I have no fear, doctor, to die.*"

Mrs. Washington was at the bed side with his family, and a number of domestics in the room. He would not wound their sensibility by taking a formal leave of any one.—At last his breathing grew shorter, *he closed his eyes and mouth with his own hands*, and expired! Thus did the last moments of this venerable man correspond with the whole tenor of his well spent life. He died with perfect resignation to the will of Heaven, and in full possession of his reason, not a groan or complaint escaped him!

A

CHROONLOGICAL TABLE

OF
REMARKABLE EVENTS DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS.

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The creation of the world, and Adam and Eve, ...	4004
The birth of Cain, ...	4003
The old world is destroyed by a del- uge, continuing 377 days, ...	2348
The tower of Babel is built by Noah's posterity, about	2247
Ninus, the son of Belus, founds the kingdom of Assyria which lasted a- bove 1000 years, and out of its ruins were formed the Assyrians of Baby- lon, those of Nineveh, and the king- dom of the Medes, ...	2059
Joseph dies in Egypt, which concludes the book of Genesis, containing a period of 2369 years.	1635
Aaron born in Egypt, ...	1574

Cadmus carried the Phœnician letters into Greece, and built the Citadel of Thebes,	1493
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The pentateuch, of five first books of Moses, are written in the land of Moab, where he died the year following, aged 110,	1452
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Jerusalem is taken by the Saracenes, ...	637
Charlemagne, king of France, begins the empire of Germany, afterwards called the western empire; and gives the present names to the winds and the months, ...	800

The Danes begin their ravages in England,	867
Alfred the Great, after subduing the Danish invaders, founds the university of Oxford, about	896
Paper made of cotten rags was in use, 1000; that of linen,	1170
Leo IX. the first pope that kept up an army,	1054
The Turks take Jerusalem from the Saracens,	1065
Pope Alexander III. compelled the kings of England and France to hold the stirrups of his saddle when he mounted his horse,	1181
The battle of Ascalon, in Judæa, in which Richard, king of England, defeats Saladin's army consisting of 300,000 men,	1192
Magna Charta is signed by king John and the barons of England,	1215
The house of London, and other cities in England, France and Germany still thatched with straw,	1233
The mariner's compass invented, or improved, by Gioia,	1302
Gunpowder and guns first invented by	

varts, a monk of Cologne, 1340;
Edward III. had four pieces of can-
n, which contributed to gain him
the battle of Cressy, 1346; bombs
and mortars were invented the
same year.

Constantinople taken by the Turks,
which ends the eastern empire, 1123
years from its erection by Constan-
tine the Great, and 2206 years from
the foundation of Rome, . . . 1453

America first discovered by Colum-
bus, a Genoese, in the service of
Spain, . . . 1492

Gunpowder first used in England, (before
which time the ladies used skewers,) 1561

The great massacre of Protestants at
Paris, . . . 1572

Queen of Scots is beheaded by
order of Elizabeth, . . . 1587

The massacre of 40,000 English Pro-
testants, in Ireland, . . . 1640

Charles I. (aged 49) beheaded at
Whitehall, January 30, . . . 1649

Cromwell assumes the protectorship, 1654

The Plague rages in London, and car-
ries off 68,000 persons, . . . 1665

The great fire of London, which destroyed 13,000 houses,	1666
Bayonets first used by the French in the battle of Turin,	1693
Russia, formerly a dukedom, is established as an empire,	1727
George Washington born February 22,	1732
Westminster bridge, which cost 389,000 <i>l.</i> finished	1750
146 Englishmen are confined in the blackhole at Calcutta, East-Indies, by the Nabob, and 123 found dead next morning,	1756
General Wolfe is killed in taking Quebec from the French,	1759
First Petition of Congress to the King, November,	1773
Battle of Lexington, April 19,	1775
George Washington appointed General and Commander in Chief of the American Armies, June 15,	1775
Battle at Bunker's Hill, June 17,	1775
Declaration of Independence by the colonies, July, 4,	1776
General Burgoyne surrendered October 17,	1777
Earl Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Vir. October 19,	1781

Rodney gains a victory over French fleet, April 12, . . .	1782
French colonies are acknowledged	
Britannic majesty, free, sov-	
erain, and independent states,	
November 30, ...	1782
Washington proclaimed first President	
U. S. A. April 30, ...	1789
Revolution in France—capture of the Bastille, July 14, ...	1789
French declare war against England and Holland, Feb. 1, ...	1792
Execution of Louis XVIth of France, beheaded, ...	1792
George Washington re-elected President of the United States, ...	1793
James Madison elected President, of the United States, ...	1797
Decisive victory of the Nile, commanded by Nelson, Aug. 1, ...	1798
George Washington died, November the 14, aged 68, ...	1799
Treaty of Peace between Germany and France, Feb 9, ...	1801
Thomas Jefferson elected President U. S.	1801
War commenced between France and Britain, July 2, ...	1803
Napoleon crowned emperor by his	

holiness the Pope, ...	1804
Thomas Jefferson re-elected President of the U. S.	1805
James Madison elected President of the U. S.	1809
War declared by U. S. against Great Britain, ...	1812
James Madison re-elected President of the U. S.	1813
Paris surrenders to the allies—Bonaparte abdicates and retires to Elba—Battle of Bridgewater—Washington captured—Surrender of the British fleet on Lake Champlain, ...	1814
Battle of New-Orleans—Peace with Great Britain—return of Bonaparte to Paris—Battle of Waterloo—Louis XVIIIth restored—Bonaparte sent to St. Helena, ...	1815
James Monroe elected President of the U. S.	1817
James Monroe re-elected President of the U. S.	1821
John Q. Adams elected President of the U. S.	1825
Andrew Jackson elected President of the U. S.	1829





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